THE

Board of Trade Journal.

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In a notice on p. 670 will be found a statement of the objects and work of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade having special regard to the transfer to the Board of Trade of the Imperial Institute. The main office of the Branch is at present at No. 50, Parliament Street, S.W., with a temporary enquiry office at 49, Eastcheap, E.C., the City Branch of the Imperial Institute.

Attention is directed to the fact that trade representatives of India, and of certain Colonies which are named below, can be consulted at the City Branch on matters relative to the trade of the respective countries.

A Representative for India attends on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

A Representative for the Dominion of Canada attends daily by appointment.

A Representative for Queensland attends daily from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Commercial Agency for New South Wales is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A note of specially interesting subjects dealt with in a Trade Report published by the Foreign Office since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal," and a note of a report issued by the Colonial Office during the same period, will be found on pp. 663-4.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

BRITISH INDIA.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: INDIA OFFICE.

Railway Spikes.

The Secretary of State for India in Council is prepared to receive tenders for the supply of spikes for the Indian State Railways.

The conditions of contract may be obtained on application to the Director-General of Stores, India Office,

Openings for British Trade.

BRITISH INDIA—*continued.*

Whitehall, S.W., and tenders are to be delivered at that Office by 2 o'clock p.m., on Tuesday, the 5th January, 1904, after which time no tender will be received.

Railway Stores.

The Directors of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company are prepared to receive tenders for the supply of the following stores, namely:—Railway tickets, &c., turpentine, crucibles, spring steel, galvanised iron telegraph wire, bellows, steelwork and ironwork for carriages and vans.

Specifications and forms of tender may be obtained at the Company's offices, 48, Copthall Avenue, E.C., on payment of the fee for the specification, which payment will not be returned.

Tenders must be delivered in sealed envelopes, addressed to the Secretary, marked "Tender for Railway Tickets, &c.," or, as the case may be, not later than 11 a.m. on Thursday, the 14th January, 1904.

The Directors do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

Electric Power Installation.

In its issue of 5th December, "Indian Engineering" contains a notice to the effect that tenders are invited by the Public Works Department of the Kashmir and Jammu State for an electric power installation in the neighbourhood of Srinagar, Kashmir.

The works will consist of the following:—

1. A canal taking out of the Sind River and passing along the hill sides to near Ganderbal at the month of the Sind Valley. At this point a fall of about 200 feet can be obtained. The water supply in the Sind River is ample at all times of the year except in the winter, and even then will probably be sufficient for the lighting scheme or for the production of about 300 h.p.

2. A series of turbines with the necessary pipe lines to bring water down to them, electric generating plant and the necessary transformers, &c. All these will be situated in suitable buildings at the foot of the hill along which the canal runs near Ganderbal.

3. Overhead bare copper wire mains to transmit the power generated to Srinagar, a distance of about 12 miles.

4. A central transformer station outside the City of Srinagar to reduce the voltage to not higher than 2,000 volts. From this point the power will be transmitted to four or more sub-transformer stations situated in different parts of the City, and all within a radius of about two miles, at which points the voltage must be arranged to meet the requirements of power machines and electric lighting.

Openings for British Trade.

BRITISH INDIA—*continued.*

The Kashmir Durbar propose to construct the canal (item 1) themselves.

Tenders are invited for all the other works, including the necessary buildings.

The total cost of the scheme is roughly estimated to come to about 6 lakhs of rupees (40,000*l.*).

Firms proposing to undertake the work will be expected to supply detailed estimates and specifications stating exactly the works proposed, the systems to be adopted, and the cost thereof.

The amount of power to be delivered in Srinagar is about 700 h.p., but the works must be so arranged that in case of future extensions 1,000 h.p. can be delivered in Srinagar.

The maintenance and up-keep of the whole plant for at least one year after completion of the works will have to be included in the tenders.

Further particulars can be obtained from the State Engineer, Kashmir Durbar, Srinagar.

The Kashmir Durbar do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

Railway Workshops.

The "Times of India" for 28th November reports that the numerous extensions and additions to the East Coast Railway Section as far as Vizianagram, with its increase in rolling stock, having necessitated extension in the workshops of the Madras Railway Carriage and Locomotive Works at Perambore, the Government of India has sanctioned estimates for about 3½ lakhs of rupees for the more urgent portions of the scheme.

CANADA.

Enquiries relating to Canadian Trade.

The following trade enquiries have been received at the **Canadian Section of the Imperial Institute,** from the Curator of which Section further particulars may be obtained:—

Home Enquiries.—A London firm dealing with large quantities of wood acetic lime ask to be placed in communication with Canadian manufacturers of same.

Canadian Enquiries.—A manufacturer's agent in Winnipeg who can furnish excellent references wishes to represent a first-class manufacturer of fish hooks.

A Canadian Preserving Company seek a market for a quantity of concentrated apple juice, an article much used in Canada by manufacturers of jams and jellies.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the Curator of the Canadian Section of the Imperial Institute, S.W.

Openings for British Trade.

CANADA—*continued.*

Irrigation Works in the North-West.

The Canadian Public Works Department in the North-West has issued a report, from which it appears that 64,621,169 acres of land in the Canadian territories, at present classed as semi-arid, may be rendered suitable for the production of cereals. This vast tract of land, situated in the southern and south-western portions of the territories, is at present ranching country. It produces a nutritious grass on which cattle thrive, but owing to lack of rain it is often impossible to raise crops on it with profit. It is, however, an ideal country for pastoral or dairy farming. The soil naturally is very fertile, and as its only drawback is lack of moisture, the possibilities of irrigation speedily became a matter for discussion.

In this connection the "Monetary Times" (Toronto) remarks that the first irrigation work of that district was undertaken in 1893, a channel being run from the Elbow river to serve the district west and south-west of Calgary. Since then other like works have been undertaken, and up to a year ago 163 canals and ditches had been constructed with a length of 474½ miles serving 623,362 acres of land. The increased value of this land as a result of irrigation is stated in the report at 1,850,000 dols., which represents a large profit on the cost of the work. It is worthy of note that the Canadian Pacific Railway has taken several million acres in the semi-arid region as part of its land grant, and will irrigate it. The irrigation of the whole region will, no doubt, prove a work of years, but in the meanwhile the idea is gaining ground, and several parcels of land are being taken in hand by private companies.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH—NEW SOUTH WALES.

Electric Plant and Machinery.

The Municipal Council of Sydney, New South Wales, invite tenders for the supply, delivery, and erection of the following plant and machinery required for their electricity supply station and sub-stations in connection therewith:—(1) One or two 600-kw. or 1,200-kw. steam alternators (three-phase), with condenser, pipework, motor-generators, static transformers, switchboards, &c.; (2) coal and ash conveyor.

Specifications, drawings, general conditions, and forms of tender may be obtained from Messrs. Preece and Cardew, 8, Queen Anne's Gate, Westminster, London, S.W., on payment of a deposit of 5*l.* for Section 1 or 1*l.* for Section 2, which amount will be refunded on receipt of *bona fide* tenders and the return of the specifications,

drawings, and general conditions. Extra copies of specification and general conditions for Section 1 can be obtained upon payment of 20*s.*, and for Section 2 on payment of 5*s.*, these amounts being non-returnable.

Sealed tenders, endorsed "Sydney Electric Lighting," are to be delivered to Messrs. Preece and Cardew, at their offices, 8, Queen Anne's Gate, Westminster, London, S.W., before 12 noon on 12th January.

NORWAY.

Saddle Covers.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, from H.M. Consul-General at Christiania, a despatch notifying that the Norwegian Military Authorities are inviting tenders for the supply to the Main Arsenal of 778 saddle covers for the field artillery.

The covers are to be brown, 1·52 metres by 1·91 metres in size, minimum weight 1·8 kilog. each, and must conform in other respects to the sample which can be seen at the "Felttoimester's" Office.

Tenders, in sealed envelopes, addressed "Den norske felttoimesterekspedition," Christiania, and marked "Anbud paa sadeldaekkener," will be received up to noon on the 15th January, 1904.

A translation of the conditions of tender may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., but it should be noted that tenders from British firms will not receive consideration unless sent in by properly accredited Norwegian agents.

Apart from the usual Customs duty, a preference of from 10 to 15 per cent. is given to Norwegian tenderers.

DENMARK.

Pumps.

The "Berlingske Tidende" of 10th December contains a notice inviting tenders for the supply to the Copenhagen Electric Lighting Works of two electric centrifugal pumps with a capacity of about 500 to 600 cubic metres per hour, in accordance with drawing, specification and conditions which can be obtained from the office of the Electric Works, 30, Gothersgade, Copenhagen, on payment of a deposit of 20 kroner, which is refunded when the time limit for tenders has expired and the drawings, &c., are returned to the office.

Tenders must be sent in to the office of the Copenhagen Public Lighting Department, 22, Vestre Boulevard, Copenhagen, by midday on 5th January.

Openings for British Trade.

NETHERLANDS.

Telescopic Gasometer.

The "Bulletin Commercial" announces that tenders for the erection of a telescopic gasometer at Amsterdam, having a diameter of 50 metres and a capacity of 60,000 cubic metres, will be opened on the 15th February, 1904. Particulars may be obtained from M. l'Ingénieur, "Sous-directeur des usines à gaz de la ville," Amsterdam.

BELGIUM.

Tenders for Railway Construction.

The "Bulletin Commercial" (Brussels) of 5th December contains an announcement to the effect that tenders will be opened on the 13th January, by the Société Nationale des Chemins de fer Vicinaux, at No. 14, Rue de la Science, Brussels, for the construction of the line Eugies-Wasmes-Saint Ghislain and of the junction of the Quaragnon to Quevy line with the Eugies-Wasmes-Saint Ghislain line.

The upset price of the work is 145,606 francs (5,824*l.*), and a deposit of 15,000 francs (600*l.*) is required. Tenders by registered letter must be addressed to the Director-General of the Company at the address given above, where they will be received not later than 12th January. Plans, estimates, and conditions of contract may be seen at the Company's office and at the office of M. L'Hoir, Boulevard Dolez, No. 30, Mons.

A statement of the conditions of contract may be obtained at the offices named on payment of 1 franc.

PORTUGAL.

Coal Depot to Lease.

The "Diario do Governo" of 19th December contains a notice calling for tenders, which will be received for 120 days from the date named, in the Directorate-General of "Ultramar," Lisbon, or in the Secretariat of the Government of Cape de Verde, for the lease of the Coal Depot on the Island of Santa Maria, near the City of Praia, Island of S. Tiago of Cape Verde. The term of the lease is 25 years, and the annual rental 3,200 milreis, or about 530*l.* plus a bonus greater than 5 per cent. on the price of the coal furnished to vessels of the Government which may take their supplies therefrom.

Pier Construction.

The "Diario do Governo" of 21st December contains a notice calling for tenders, which will be opened at three months from the date of the "Diario," in the Ministry of Public Works, Lisbon, for the construction of a pier for loading and discharging, with the works corresponding, in the port of Lagos at the upset price of 31,000 milries (about 5,200*l.*). A provisional deposit of 600 milreis (about 120*l.*) is required to qualify any tender. The plan of the

Openings for British Trade.

PORTUGAL—*continued.*

works with the respective table of requirements are on view in the first office of the above-mentioned Directorate, as well as in the fourth office of the River and Maritime Services in Setubal.

Railway Construction and Plant.

With reference to the announcement which appeared on p. 200 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 30th July last, it may be noted that the "Diario do Governo" of 26th December contains a copy of the contract for the construction of the Portalegre metre gauge railway from Estremoz to Castello de Vide, with a branch from the neighbourhood of Fronteira to Avis, and its working for *seventy* years, which has been awarded to Sr. Jose Pedro de Mattos, Rua de Prata, 80, Lisbon.

The "Diarios" containing the above notices may be seen by those interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

SPAIN.

Railway Construction and Plant.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 25th December contains a Royal Order authorising the Government to grant a concession for the construction and working for 99 years, without State subvention, of a narrow gauge railway, from Puebla de Hijar, by Morella, to the port of Vinaroz, with a branch for the working of the coal measure of Utrillas and another for that of Beceite.

The "Gaceta" containing the above notice may be seen on application by those interested at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

PERSIA.

Sugar. Cotton Goods.

The Acting British Vice-Consul at Resht states, in his report for 1902–3 on the trade of that district, that the total imports through all the Caspian ports, viz., Enzelli for Ghilan and other parts of Persia, Bender Gez for Astrabad, Meshedi Sar for Barfuroosh and the province of Mazanderan generally, and Lengerood for Lahijan (the district of Talesh and the smaller stations at Hassan Kiadeh, Tenekaboon and Ferakhabad are likewise included), amounted in value to 73,495,580 krans (1,336,283*l.*), of which sugar, loaf and powdered, accounts for 643,154*l.*, and cotton piece-goods for 291,899*l.*

In this connection the Acting Vice-Consul remarks: "In the latter part of the year 1901 I found that a Baku merchant, Haji

Openings for British Trade.

PERSIA—*continued.*

Zenelabdin Tagioff by name, was exporting to Resht unbleached and bleached shirtings manufactured in his cotton mill at Baku. The unbleached shirting could then be sold here at 3·241*d.* per yard, whereas the Manchester equivalent was offered at 3·668*d.*

"According to the Customs returns, Russian shirtings were imported at Enzelli only to the extent of 8,596*l.*, against 7,322*l.* during the year ended 20th March, 1902. The figures point to an increase, and it must be remembered that exchange was lower during the previous year. It is a very interesting fact that no other Caspian port has imported shirtings, Mexicans, mulls and jaconets, showing, as I believe it does, that Manchester enjoys a complete monopoly in this particular department in those places which Mr. Tagioff has not tapped. I trust that this satisfactory state of affairs will continue.

"It would be a pity, I think, to allow the total extinction of the print trade in this market, and, in view of the growing importance and wealth of this province, I am convinced that there is much to be done. A firm entering into direct communication with the wholesale dealer here could undoubtedly do profitable business. At present, as I have already pointed out in a previous report, there is no direct trade with the United Kingdom, consequently prints, shirtings, cloth and other textiles reach this market from home *viâ* Bagdad, Hamadan, Tabreez and Kermanshah through third parties. In some cases goods must pass through more hands and each exchange must necessarily be effected at a profit. It follows that the cost to the retailer here must be much higher than it would be if the wholesale dealer at Resht obtained his merchandise direct from the manufacturer as is done in the case of Russian piece-goods. If Manchester goods, sold to an importer at Bagdad, resold to a merchant at Hamadan and again sold to a trader in Resht can compete with goods consigned direct by the manufacturer in Russia to the wholesale dealer here, I think it may be taken that in the event of the Manchester goods being treated in the same economical manner they would be more difficult to compete with." (*Annual Series*, 3,109.) As to credit, *vide* p. 635 of this issue of the "Board of Trade Journal."

Apparel, Boots and Shoes.

Further on in his report the Acting Vice-Consul remarks that the trade returns show an importation from Russia during the year ended 20th March, 1903, of clothing, &c., to the extent of 514,810 krans. (9,360*l.*). In connection with this subject the Vice-Consul writes:—

"I may state that, in my opinion, there is an opening for British trade in the shape of both cheap and superior overcoats, trousers, mackintoshes, &c., which would find a ready sale. Cheap underclothing, men's and women's boots and shoes would also be

Openings for British Trade.

PERSIA—*continued.*

readily bought by natives. These goods would have to be shipped *viâ* Trebizond.

"I would here remark that Persians have, as a rule, small feet, and that Persian ladies do not wear boots. Their shoes must be low-heeled. Goods despatched would therefore be suitable only if they were in harmony with these specifications. Fancy satin shoes with low heels would, I think, be successful."

Glassware.

It is further stated in the same report that Persians are extremely fond of glassware of every description, but more especially of the showy sorts, and they find the greatest delight in contemplating "taktché" (niches in walls) well stocked with all varieties of coloured glass lamps, sherbet glasses, glass bowls, flower stands and so forth. (See "Board of Trade Journal" of 1st January, 1903, pp. 14–15.) The long journey from this Black Sea port, combined with the fragile nature of these goods, necessarily makes this trade a risky one on account of breakages.

Camels should always be employed for the transport of easily broken articles, because these animals lie down when being relieved of their goods, whereas horses and mules of course remain standing. The distance between the packages and the ground is consequently greater in the case of the latter, and the breakage risk proportionately higher. (*Annual Series*, 3,109.)

BRAZIL.

Alcohol Motors and Machinery.

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office, from H.M. Consul-General at Rio de Janeiro, calling attention to new branches of industry in Brazil. One of these is the production of alcohol from sugar-cane for the cultivation of which the soil and climate of the Northern States of Pernambuco, Bahia, Rio Grande do Norte, &c., are peculiarly adapted.

The idea prevails that compensation for the unsatisfactory returns now obtained from sugar can be earned from the sale of its bye-product, alcohol, and active measures are therefore being taken to make known its various uses and the many forms in which it can be utilised for public, domestic, and industrial purposes.

At a recent exhibition (see "Board of Trade Journal" for 20th August last, p. 246) of machinery and appliances employed in the production of alcohol and of apparatus in which the liquid can be used, it was satisfactorily demonstrated that alcohol can in many cases be used as a substitute for gas, electricity, or petroleum. Its adaptibility for lighting and heating purposes was clearly established; it was made to supply motive force for industrial machinery and the propelling of river launches; and it was shown to be a most useful auxiliary for household services, such as cooking, the heating of box-irons, &c.

Openings for British Trade.

The Consul-General remarks that the exhibition has certainly been successful in the furtherance of its object, practical results having followed in the substitution of alcohol for public lighting, in place of petroleum, in more than one of the smaller country towns; whilst the Government have been authorised by Congress to enter into arrangements for the lighting of all railway stations with it in preference to petroleum, which has hitherto been used. He adds that there were few British representatives at the exhibition, but in view of a prospective demand in Brazil for apparatus for the use of alcohol and for machinery for its production, it would perhaps be to the interests of British manufacturers to take the matter into consideration.

URUGUAY.

Building Construction and Materials.

According to the "Bulletin Commercial" (Brussels), entries will be received up to 3 p.m. on 15th April at the Secretariat of the Legislative Assembly, Montevideo, for an international competition for a Government building which it is proposed to erect at Montevideo. The total cost is not to exceed 700,000 dols. (about 148,750*l.*). To the authors of the designs adjudged first, second, and third in order of merit, prizes of 6,000 dols. (about 1,275*l.*), 3,000 (about 637*l.*), and 1,500 dols. (about 319*l.*) respectively will be awarded.

ARGENTINA.

Electric Installation for Defence Work.

The "Boletin Oficial" of 26th November contains a Decree approving the sheets of conditions and specifications prepared for the electric installations in the defence works of the "Puerto Militar," the amount of which is estimated at 24,386.70 dols. gold. The chief of the Coast Artillery Force is charged with the carrying out of the works. From the preamble to the Decree the intention would appear to be to purchase the installations in Europe or America and bring them to Argentina by Government vessels.

Bridge Work.

The same "Boletin" contains a Decree approving the sheets and specifications for the provision of metal spans and accessories for the bridges on the C. Norte Railway line from Zuviria to Guachipas, referred to in Law No. 4,267, and authorising the Directorate General of Ways of Communication to put up to public tender a contract for the purpose indicated.

The "Boletin" containing the above notices may be seen on application by those interested at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

Openings for British Trade.

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITION.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

St. Louis Exhibition: Copyright Protection.

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office, from H.M. Embassy at Washington, transmitting copies of a Bill affording copyright protection to foreign exhibitors of literary, artistic, or musical works at the forthcoming Louisiana Purchase Exhibition. It is stated that the measure may be confidently expected to be enacted into Law before 1st January, 1904, and that special application forms will be printed for the use of all prospective exhibitors.

Included in the Bill is a provision that the copyright protection therein provided for shall be for the term of two years from the date of the receipt of the book or other article in the copyright office, or by filing in the copyright office a description and photograph of the work of art which it is desired to copyright, and by paying to the register of copyright the necessary fees.

Turkish Participation.

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office, from H.M. Ambassador at Constantinople, stating that the Sublime Porte have now agreed to participate officially in the International Exhibition to be held at St. Louis, and have appointed their Minister at Washington, Turkish Commissioner for the Exhibition.

Announcements have been published in the Press intimating that Turkish traders who may wish to send and exhibit their products at their own expense will be afforded Customs facilities.

A Jewish merchant of the Stamboul bazaar, who seems to have built at his own expense Turkish kiosks in previous exhibitions, and also to have helped Turkish merchants who wished to exhibit their goods, has just been given his travelling expenses and authorised to start for the United States to make the necessary arrangements.

German Participation.

After mentioning points of interest with regard to the German exhibits at Chicago, *e.g.*, education, machinery, and other industrial exhibits, and agriculture, Mr. Gastrell, Commercial Attaché to H.M. Embassy at Berlin, in a recent memorandum to the Foreign Office, writes that German participation in the Exhibition will be far more extensive than was originally contemplated. It is on this account that the original grant of the Imperial Government has had to be increased, making the total 175,000*l.*, or much the same sum as was granted for the Chicago Exhibition. It will be remembered that 15,000*l.* was also sanctioned by the Prussian Government for their special Educational Exhibit, thus bringing the grand total of expenditure for Exhibition purposes on the German Section up to 190,000*l.* Its space in square metres is 71,122, as compared with 34,702 at Paris in 1900, and with 75,750 at Chicago in 1893.

TRADE OF THE TRANSVAAL (NINE MONTHS).

The following tables, showing the value of the principal and other articles imported into and exported from the Transvaal in the nine months ended September, 1903, as compared with the corresponding period of 1902, are compiled from official figures published in the "Transvaal Government Gazette" of 20th November:—

Imports.

Articles.	Nine months ended Sept., 1902.	Nine months ended Sept, 1903.
	£	£
Metals and manufactures of (*includes agricultural implements, bicycles, hardware, iron and steel manufactures, cutlery, machinery, wire rope, &c.*)...	1,656,000	3,262,000
Apparel, haberdashery, &c. (*includes hats*)	1,183,000	2,013,000
Provisions, exclusive of corn and dairy products (*includes coffee, chicory, biscuits, meats, fresh and preserved, fish, fresh and preserved, jams, sugar, tea, vegetables, fruits, condiments, salt, &c.*) ...	1,019,000	1,903,000
Wood and manufactures (*includes furniture*)	345,000*	1,403,000
Corn and grain (*includes flour, meal and rice*) ...	469,000	1,258,000
Leather and manufactures (*includes saddlery and boots and shoes*)	370,000	614,000
Dairy products (*includes butter and butterine, eggs, cheese, preserved milk, &c.*)	334,000	557,000
Beverages (*includes ale, spirits, wine and mineral waters*)	302,000	507,000
Live animals	108,000	499,000
Drugs and chemicals	283,000	409,000
Groceries and oilmen's stores (*includes oils and paints*)	202,000	316,000
Vehicles (other than bicycles)	88,000	272,000
Cotton manufactures	177,000	254,000
Woollen manufactures	144,000	215,000
Stationery and paper (*includes books*)	125,000	281,000
Soap and candles	122,000	198,000
Tobacco, raw and manufactured (*includes cigars and cigarettes*)	110,000	162,000
Jewellery and plated ware (*includes clocks and watches*)	131,000	151,000
Carpets	†	79,000
Cocoa, chocolate, and confectionery	55,000	76,000
Tramway material...	18,000	62,000
Electric cable wire and fittings	31,000	53,000
Toys and sporting goods	31,000	39,000
Tobacconist ware	32,000	27,000
Other articles of merchandise	437,000	816,000
Total... ... ... £	7,772,000	15,426,000

* Included carpets in 1902. † Included with furniture prior to 1903.

Of the total value of merchandise imported into the Transvaal during the first nine months of 1903, 6,269,000*l.* worth were sent *viâ* Cape Colony, 6,599,000*l.* worth *viâ* Natal, and 2,558,000*l.* worth *viâ* Delagoa Bay.

NOTE.—The above figures do not include free importations for the South African Garrison Institute and Officers' Messes, Local Government or Military Stores, or Railway Material imported as "Public Stores."

Trade of the Transvaal (Nine Months).

Exports.

Articles.	Nine months ended Sept., 1902.	Nine months ended Sept., 1903.
	£	£
Gold	4,841,000	8,977,000
Coal	65,000	94,000
Wool	7,000	20,000
Tobacco, manufactured	8,000	9,000
Corn and grain	1,000	8,000
Animals, living	*	6,000
Other articles	17,000	70,000
Total ... ... £	4,939,000	9,184,000

* Less than 500*l*.

BRITISH TRADE ABROAD.

Resht.—The Acting British Vice-Consul at Resht remarks in his report for 1902-3 that catalogues sent to him from the United Kingdom are in the majority of cases useless, owing to the fact that Persians cannot read them, but in spite of this they sometimes lead to business. A price list sent by a British glass manufacturing firm was shown by the Consul to a Persian who, being struck by the cheapness of the wares, sent his English-speaking son to the United Kingdom for the purpose of making a trial purchase. Some 120 cases have been on their way from Trebizond since the month of March and have only recently been despatched from Tabreez, there having been a scarcity of camels. A successful result, says the Consul, is more dependent on careful and scientific packing than cheapness and quality.

In the same report, it is stated that the Imperial Bank of Persia has a branch at Resht. The notes issued by the bank are popular and circulate freely, being more convenient to handle than heavy silver krans.

The giving of credit being, except in special cases, pernicious, the best way of re-imbursement is to draw long usance "document payment" bills. In this way the merchandise is not delivered except against payment, and loss through bad debts is prevented. The holders of such bills should, however, be authorised to make partial deliveries of goods against proportionate payments. (*Annual Series*, 3,109.)

NUSHKI-SEISTAN-MESHED TRADE ROUTE.

With reference to previous articles on the Nushki-Seistan trade route between India and Persia published in the "Board of Trade Journal" of 8th November, 1900, and 14th March, 4th April, 11th July, and 5th September, 1901, the Board of Trade have received from Mr. H. W. Maclean, the Commissioner appointed by the Commercial Intelligence Committee of the Board to visit Persia in order to enquire and report as to the openings for British trade in that country, the following memorandum with regard to the above-mentioned route:—

"The overland trade route from India enters Persia at Kuh-Malik-Siah, 372 miles from the future rail head at Nushki. To the west lie the great central deserts of Persia, trending north-westward as far as the plain of Veramin, a few hours' ride from Teheran. The nearest commercial centre westward is Kerman, some 300 miles across the desert. But Kerman is only some 300 miles from Bander-Abbas, and a route of 670 miles cannot compete with one of 300, both of them camel tracks. Therefore the Nushki route can serve only Khorassan and Seistan.

"I have not visited Seistan, but such information as I have obtained from persons who have been there conveys the impression of a poor and thinly-populated agricultural district of some 60,000 inhabitants, producing grain, butter, and wool, and consuming a limited quantity of cheap prints, tea, and sugar. The capital, Nasratabad, is not at present a place of any commercial importance, and whether it can become a valuable market for British or Indian manufactures must depend on its capacity to become an export market for the produce of the neighbouring districts of Kain, Khorassan, and Afghanistan. The consumer of commodities buys them in the place where he disposes of his produce. Meshed, the capital of a very fertile province, steadily increasing in population and wealth, is at present the great commercial centre for all these regions, whose chief products—cotton, wool, carpets, skins, and dried fruits—are all exported to Russia.

"Meshed and the Province of Khorassan have long been supplied with British and Indian commodities *viâ* Bander-Abbas. That Russian commodities have been able to compete so successfully against ours may be attributed mainly to two causes:—1. The system of drawbacks granted on the export to Persia of certain commodities (amounting on cotton tissues to over 30*l.* per ton), which may or may not be simply a return of duties previously imposed; 2. The cheap and rapid transport resulting from improved rail and steamer communications within the Russian Empire. Piece-goods from Moscow can now be delivered at Ashkabad, 30 miles from the Persian frontier, at a cost of 5*l.* 10*s.* in summer, or 8*l.* 10*s.* in winter, per ton. From Ashkabad to Meshed the average cost of transport is 5*l.* 12*s.*, making a total cost of 11*l.* 2*s.* to 14*l.* 2*s.* per ton, Moscow to Meshed. From Manchester to Bander-Abbas piece-goods pay, say, 2*l.* 5*s.* per ton weight, and

Nushki-Seistan-Meshed Trade Route.

from Bander-Abbas to Meshed 25*l.* to 26*l.*, a total cost of 27*l.* 5*s.* to 28*l.* 5*s.* per ton. In other words, prints, to compete in Meshed, must be 25 per cent. cheaper in Manchester than in Moscow.

"Even under these conditions British and Indian trade has not been driven altogether out of Khorassan. Our Khorassan Consular Report for 1901–2 estimates a British and Indian trade of the value of 156,400*l.* into Khorassan for that year, of which over 45,000*l.* were cotton goods, and I have satisfied myself that this does not overstate the facts. If, therefore, the Nushki route can show any distinct advantage over the Bander-Abbas route, it may enable us to regain trade in Khorassan. If it does not possess such advantage, it is of no commercial value, as it does not serve any other district.

"From Nushki to Meshed is about 965 miles, from Bander-Abbas to Meshed, *viâ* Seistan or *viâ* Yezd, about 1,000 miles, and *viâ* Birjand about 900 miles, camel transport being employed on all these routes.

"Sufficient grazing for camels is found on all these routes in ordinary years, but drivers have greater difficulty in obtaining provisions on the Nushki than on the other routes. Between Nushki and Seistan the winter nights are excessively cold, and the water is brackish, but not considered injurious to animals. Between Bander-Abbas and Seistan the summer days are excessively hot, and caravans try to avoid that region in the height of summer.

"The following average costs of transport are derived from figures supplied by merchants from actual transactions:—

	Per Ton.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*
Bander-Abbas to Yezd	13	10	0
Yezd to Meshed...	11	0	0
Bander-Abbas to Meshed direct ...	25	10	0
Quetta to Meshed	22	0	0

"The Seistan route, therefore, seems to have an advantage in cost of transport. But tea and indigo come from Bengal and piece-goods from Bombay (mostly Manchester goods). I have not at hand reliable data as to railway freight charges in India, but assuming a rate of 4*l.* per ton goods will be delivered in Meshed *viâ* Nushki at 26*l.* per ton. From Bombay to Bander-Abbas the freight on piece-goods works out at something under 1*l.* per ton, making a total of 26*l.* 10*s.* per ton to Meshed. These figures include camel freight from Quetta to Nushki, a distance of 91 miles. Unless the local conditions, of which I am not cognisant, are exceptional, the difference between railway and camel freight on that section is not likely to greatly lower the cost of transport *viâ* Nushki.

"The trader in Meshed buys through an agent in Bombay, and the goods must be consigned to another agent either in Bander-

Nushki-Seistan-Meshed Trade Route.

Abbas or in Nasratabad, who clears the goods and pays Customs duty and advance hire on forwarding to Meshed. But by the Nushki route an additional agent must be employed at Quetta (in future Nushki) to receive the goods there and arrange camel freight.

"Bander-Abbas has never been described as a paradise, but it is a town of some 6,000 inhabitants with an import and export trade averaging 580,000*l.* per annum, and two or three steamers call every week. The climate is exceedingly hot for five months, but within two days' march there are summer resorts in the hills where water is good and nights comparatively cool. It is easy to find an agent there, already engaged in other affairs, to work on commission.

"Nasratabad lies in an outermost corner of Persia, and there is no escape from the summer heat which is said to be extreme. An agent appointed there must have a fixed salary as there is no mercantile business to be done locally. There is said to be often difficulty and delay in obtaining transport from Nasratabad to Meshed, the Quetta caravans seldom caring to engage beyond Seistan.

"The opinion generally expressed to me by Meshed traders who have tried both routes was that the additional expenses incurred *viâ* Nushki made the total charges by that route quite as heavy as on the Bander-Abbas route.

"The Bander-Abbas route serves not only Khorassan but also Kerman and Yezd. It is a material advantage in Persian trade, where the business done in any line is comparatively small and the market easily bared or glutted, to have such alternative markets to deal in. Yezd, which imports *viâ* both Bushire and Bander-Abbas, has still the remnants of an important trade with Khorassan and Meshed, and serves the district of Sharud and Sabzwar, which by the Nushki route lie beyond Meshed.

"Goods seldom arrive in Meshed from Bombay by the Nushki route in less than five to six months, whilst shipments by the Bander-Abbas route may be counted on to arrive within five months.

"There is very little return freight from Khorassan to either Bander-Abbas or Quetta. From Khorassan to Yezd there is a certain quantity of freight offering, also from Yezd and Kerman to Bander-Abbas. The prospect of return freight has an obvious effect on the cost of transport to any place. The important products of Khorassan are, cotton, wool, skins, raisins, opium, and silk; its manufactures are carpets, a large and increasing industry, woollen shawls, silk and cotton tissues. Cotton, the most important of these products, all goes to Russia. Skins and raisins are also particularly suited to the Russian market. Silk has not

Nushki-Seistan-Meshed Trade Route.

hitherto been exported and the production is small. Opium is exported *viâ* Bander-Abbas, transit through India being prohibited. Shawls and carpets are sent to Tabriz for the Constantinople market, and the silk and cotton tissues find a market in Transcaspia, Afghanistan, and India. Wool is an important export (1901/2, 34,400*l.*, 1902/3, 65,600*l.*) and a large part of it is derived from Afghanistan (1901/2, 29,100*l.*, 1902/3, 43,400*l.*). It all passes out *viâ* Ashkabad but is largely destined for markets in Europe and America. It is deserving of study whether part of this staple might not be purchased in Seistan for export *viâ* Bander-Abbas or Quetta. Its allied industry, carpet making, might also develop into a remunerative business; the necessary elements, cheap and good wool and cheap labour, seem to exist. It is impossible, however, without knowledge of local conditions to pronounce an opinion on such points.

"The total imports and exports of Khorassan and Seistan by the Nushki route for the year 1901/2 were 34,500*l.*, and for 1902/3, 28,200*l.*, and by the Bander-Abbas and Bushire routes for 1901/2, 85,800*l.* The import of tea to Khorassan and Seistan by the Nushki route for 1901/2 was 10,000*l.*, and by the Bander-Abbas and Bushire routes for the same year 41,000*l.* The Batoum-Ashkabad route is now being opened to tea in transit for Persia, and it seems probable that in future tea shipped from India to Batoum for Meshed *viâ* Ashkabad will arrive more quickly and cheaply than by the southern routes.

"Certain of the disadvantages on the Nushki route, such as the difficulty regarding agency in Seistan, the difficulty of securing transport there, and the very long time goods are on the road, are unavoidable in the initial period of a new route, but their removal, I believe, will still leave this route at a disadvantage with the older routes *viâ* Bander-Abbas and Bushire.

"These considerations lead me to the conclusion that the Seistan route is not of any commercial utility to direct British trade, and in existing circumstances is at the best only an alternative route for Indian commerce. We have still to achieve that important reduction in cost and time of transport without which British and Indian commerce cannot regain the markets formerly held in Khorassan. Railway extension within our own territory does not appear to afford a solution. The Transcaspian railway develops valuable regions within Russian territory, and at the same time affords ready access to one of the richest provinces of Persia. The same boon conferred on Beloochistan would still leave our commerce a caravan journey of 600 miles to the markets of the same province, and trade with the rest of Persia would continue to follow the old routes from Bander-Abbas and Bushire."

RECIPROCAL COMMERCIAL CONVENTION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CUBA.

With reference to the notice published on p. 603 of last week's issue of the "Board of Trade Journal," the following is the text of the Reciprocal Commercial Convention between the United States and Cuba, which came into operation in Cuba on the 27th December :—

Article I.—During the term of this convention, all articles of merchandise being the product of the soil or industry of the United States which are now imported into the Republic of Cuba free of duty, and all articles of merchandise being the product of the soil or industry of the Republic of Cuba which are now imported into the United States free of duty, shall continue to be so admitted by the respective countries free of duty.

Article II.—During the term of this convention, all articles of merchandise not included in the foregoing Article I., and being the product of the soil or industry of the Republic of Cuba imported into the United States shall be admitted at a reduction of twenty per centum of the rates of duty thereon as provided by the Tariff Act of the United States approved 24th July, 1897, or as may be provided by any Tariff Law of the United States subsequently enacted.

Article III.—During the term of this convention, all articles of merchandise not included in the foregoing Article I., and not hereinafter enumerated, being the product of the soil or industry of the United States, imported into the Republic of Cuba shall be admitted at a reduction of twenty per centum of the rates of duty thereon as now provided or as may hereafter be provided in the Customs Tariff of said Republic of Cuba.

Article IV.—During the term of this convention, the following articles of merchandise as enumerated and described in the existing Customs Tariff of the Republic of Cuba, being the product of the soil or industry of the United States imported into Cuba shall be admitted at the following respective reductions of the rates of duty thereon as now provided or as may hereafter be provided in the Customs Tariff of the Republic of Cuba :—

Schedule A.—To be admitted at a reduction of twenty-five (25) per centum :—

Machinery and apparatus of copper or its alloys or machines and apparatus in which copper or its alloys enter as the component of chief value; cast iron, wrought iron and steel, and manufactures thereof; articles of crystal and glass, except window glass; ships and water borne vessels of all kinds, of iron and steel; whiskies and brandies; fish, salted, pickled, smoke or marinated; fish or shell-fish, preserved in oil or otherwise in tins; articles of pottery or earthenware now classified under paragraphs 21 and 22 of the Customs Tariff of the Republic of Cuba.

Reciprocal Commercial Convention between the United States and Cuba.

Schedule B.—To be admitted at a reduction of thirty (30) per centum:

Butter; flour of wheat; corn; flour of corn or corn meal; chemical and pharmaceutical products and simple drugs; malt liquors in bottles; non-alcoholic beverages; cider; mineral waters; colours and dyes; window glass; complete or partly made up articles of hemp, flax, pita, jute, henequen, ramie, and other vegetable fibres now classified under the paragraphs of Group 2, Class V. of the Customs Tariff of the Republic of Cuba; musical instruments; writing and printing paper, except for newspapers; cotton and manufactures thereof, except knitted goods (see Schedule C); all articles of cutlery; boots, shoes and slippers, now classified under paragraphs 197 and 198 of the Customs Tariff of the Republic of Cuba; gold and silver plated ware; drawings, photographs, engravings, lithographs, chromolithographs, oleographs, &c., printed from stone, zinc, aluminium, or other material, used as labels, flaps, bands or wrappers for tobacco or other purposes, and all the other papers (except paper for cigarettes, and excepting maps and charts), pasteboard and manufactures thereof, now classified under paragraphs 157 to 164 inclusive of the Customs Tariff of the Republic of Cuba; common or ordinary soaps, now classified under paragraph 105, letters "A" and "B," of the Customs Tariff of the Republic of Cuba; vegetables, pickled or preserved in any manner; all wines, except those now classified under paragraph 279 (*a*) of the Customs Tariff of the Republic of Cuba.

Schedule C.—To be admitted at a reduction of forty (40) per centum:

Manufactures of cotton, knitted, and all manufactures of cotton not included in the preceding schedules; cheese; fruits, preserved; paper pulp; perfumery and essences; articles of pottery and earthenware now classified under paragraph 20 of the Customs Tariff of the Republic of Cuba; porcelain; soaps, other than common, now classified under paragraph 105 of the Customs Tariff of the Republic of Cuba; umbrellas and parasols; dextrine and glucose; watches; wool and manufactures thereof; silk and manufactures thereof; rice; cattle.

Article V.—It is understood and agreed that the laws and regulations adopted, or that may be adopted, by the United States and by the Republic of Cuba, to protect their revenues and prevent fraud in the declarations and proofs that the articles of merchandise to which this convention may apply are the product or manufacture of the United States and the Republic of Cuba, respectively, shall not impose any additional charge or fees therefor on the articles imported, excepting the consular fees established, or which may be established, by either of the two countries for issuing

Reciprocal Commercial Convention between the United States and Cuba.

shipping documents, which fees shall not be higher than those charged on the shipments of similar merchandise from any other nation whatsoever.

Article VI.—It is agreed that the tobacco, in any form, of the United States or of any of its insular possessions, shall not enjoy the benefit of any concession or rebate of duty when imported into the Republic of Cuba.

Article VII.—It is agreed that similar articles of both countries shall receive equal treatment on their importation into the ports of the United States and of the Republic of Cuba respectively.

Article VIII.—The rates of duty herein granted by the United States to the Republic of Cuba are and shall continue during the term of this convention preferential in respect to all like imports from other countries, and, in return for said preferential rates of duty granted to the Republic of Cuba by the United States, it is agreed that the concession herein granted on the part of the said Republic of Cuba to the products of the United States shall likewise be, and shall continue, during the term of this convention, preferential in respect to all like imports from other countries: Provided, That while this convention is in force, no sugar imported from the Republic of Cuba, and being the product of the soil or industry of the Republic of Cuba, shall be admitted into the United States at a reduction of duty greater than twenty per centum of the rates of duty thereon as provided by the Tariff Act of the United States approved 24th July, 1897, and no sugar, the product of any other foreign country, shall be admitted by treaty or convention into the United States, while this convention is in force, at a lower rate of duty than that provided by the Tariff Act of the United States approved 24th July, 1897.

Article IX.—In order to maintain the mutual advantages granted in the present convention by the United States to the Republic of Cuba and by the Republic of Cuba to the United States, it is understood and agreed that any tax or charge that may be imposed by the national or local authorities of either of the two countries upon the articles of merchandise embraced in the provisions of this convention, subsequent to importation and prior to their entering into consumption in the respective countries, shall be imposed and collected without discrimination upon like articles whencesoever imported.

Article X.—It is hereby understood and agreed that in case of changes in the tariff of either country which deprive the other of the advantage which is represented by the percentages herein agreed upon, on the actual rates of the tariffs now in force, the country so deprived of this protection reserves the right to terminate its obligations under this convention after six months' notice to the other of its intention to arrest the operations thereof.

Reciprocal Commercial Convention between the United States and Cuba.

And it is further understood and agreed that if, at any time during the term of this convention, after the expiration of the first year, the protection herein granted to the products and manufactures of the United States on the basis of the actual rates of the Tariff of the Republic of Cuba now in force, should appear to the government of the said Republic to be excessive in view of a new Tariff Law that may be adopted by it after this convention becomes operative, then the said Republic of Cuba may reopen negotiations with a view to securing such modifications as may appear proper to both contracting parties.

Article XI.—The present convention shall be ratified by the appropriate authorities of the respective countries, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Washington, District of Columbia, United States of America, as soon as may be before the thirty-first day of January, 1903, and the convention shall go into effect on the tenth day after the exchange of ratifications, and shall continue in force for the term of five (5) years from date of going into effect, and from year to year thereafter until the expiration of one year from the day when either of the contracting parties shall give notice to the other of its intention to terminate the same.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

BRITISH INDIA.

Countervailing Sugar Duties: Form of Certificate.

With reference to the notice on p. 545 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 17th December, respecting the remission of countervailing duties on sugar imported into India, the Board have now received a copy of a notification (No. 7,251 S.R.) regarding certificates of production of sugar imported from countries which are parties to the Brussels Sugar Convention of 1902, which was issued, as stated in the notice above referred to, on 2nd December last.

The present notification is as follows:—

1. Certificates of production shall be signed by an authority specially appointed in this behalf by the Government of the country of production, and such certificates shall be countersigned by the British Consular representative at the port of shipment or at the place from which the sugar is despatched.

2. The certificate shall be in Form A appended, and shall contain information as to the following matters, namely:—

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

BRITISH INDIA—*continued.*

(*a*) The date of production of the sugar, that is, the date when the sugar was finally produced in the form in which it was exported.

(*b*) Particulars as to the marks borne by the consignment, and such information as to the quantity, weight and quality as may be sufficient for its identification, and

(*c*) A declaration that the sugar has not received, and is not entitled to receive, any bounty, direct or indirect, on production or as a result of export.

3. Such certificate must be issued not later than the day of despatch of the sugar from the country of production.

Form A.

I, A. B., of (*a*) ....., do solemly declare that the undermentioned consignment of sugar was produced on the (*b*).....day of (*c*).....at my factory at (*d*).....and that it has not received, and is not entitled to receive, any bounty, direct or indirect, on production or as a result of exportation.

Manufacturer's Signature.

Certified that the above declaration is true.

Signature of authority specially appointed to sign such certificates.

Countersigned,

Signature of British Consular representative at port of shipment or place of despatch.

Details of the Consignment.

.....cwt. of $\frac{\text{beet}}{\text{cane}}$ sugar, of.....degrees of polarisation, packed in.....bags, marked and addressed as follows:—

Customs Decision as to certain classes of Agricultural Implements.

The Board of Trade have received, through the India Office, a copy of a Customs Circular (No. 19 of 1903) which was issued by the Government of India on 24th November last, respecting the duties payable on certain classes of agricultural implements imported into British India.

The following is a copy of the Circular in question:—

In exercise of the power conferred by section 23 of the Sea Customs Act, 1878 (VIII. of 1878), the Governor-General in Council is pleased to exempt from the import duty to which they are liable under Schedule IV. (Import Tarift) of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894 (VIII. of 1894), the following agricultural implements.

(*a*) Insert address and description. (*b*) Insert day of the month.
(*c*) Insert month and year. (*d*) Insert name of the place and country.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

BRITISH INDIA—*continued.*

when constructed so that they can be worked by manual or animal power, viz. :—Winnowers, threshers, mowing and reaping machines, elevators, seed-crushers, chaff-cutters, root-cutters, horse and bullock gears, ploughs, cultivators, scarifiers, harrows, clod-crushers, seed-drills, hay-tedders and rakes.

Procedure to be adopted in ascertaining Gallonage of Case Oil.

A copy of another Customs Circular (No. 20 of 1903) has also been received, which was issued by the Government of India on the 26th November last, respecting the procedure to be adopted, in view of the existing diversity of opinion at the various ports on the question of ascertaining the gallonage of consignments of case oil.

The Government of India consider that a uniform system of measurement should be adopted at all ports; and the Governor-General in Council is therefore pleased to prescribe that the contents of one case in each 500 cases of oil imported shall be ascertained by actual measurement, not less than two cases being tested in each consignment.

The importer should be allowed the option of declaring the contents of each case as $8\frac{1}{5}$ imperial gallons. If he does so, the declaration may ordinarily be accepted, unless the local Customs authorities, in their discretion, think it desirable to have recourse to actual measurement. If the option is not exercised, or if the local Customs authorities decide to resort to measurement, the gallonage should be ascertained in the manner prescribed above, the assessment being made upon the basis of the average contents of each case, as determined by actual measurement.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

Customs Decisions.

A copy of the "Commonwealth of Australia Gazette" for 14th November last has been received, containing Customs Decisions (Supplement No. 13 to the Customs Tariff Guide) relating to the rates of duty leviable on the under-mentioned articles imported into the Commonwealth:—

Articles, and how classed.	Rates of Duty.
*Banners—	
As flags	5 % *ad val.*
Boots and shoes—	
NOTE.—All boots permitting dry wading above the knee to be classed as "wading boots"...	25 % „
Fruits and vegetables—viz., Chinese figs and orange quarters —substitutes for dried fruits—	
As other dried fruits	3*d.* per lb.

* Revised Decision.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

Articles, and how classed.	Rates of Duty.
Machinery—Hand fertiliser distributor—	
As agricultural implements and machinery	12½ % *ad val.*
Rings—	
Caoutchouc, for automatic tin closing machines—	
As india-rubber manufactures, n.e.i.	15 % „
Triscuits, being shredded whole wheat in biscuit form—	
As biscuits	1*d.* per lb.
Voltoids of sal ammoniac—	
As medicines	15 % *ad val.*
Wheat, shredded whole, not in biscuit form—	
As oilmen's stores, n.e.i.	15 % „

SOUTH AFRICA.

Customs Decision as to Lithographs.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Colonial Office, a copy of a despatch transmitted, with the approval of the High Commissioner, by the Transvaal Treasurer to the Prime Minister of Cape Colony on 3rd November last, to the effect that the term "lithographs" in item 103 in the free list of the Customs Union Tariff should be interpreted to mean "lithographs of works of art" only, and shall not include mere advertisements.

The item referred to in the Customs Union Tariff reads "engravings, lithographs, and photographs, and enlargements or reproductions of the same," and has hitherto been taken to include such articles as labels for beer bottles, cigar or cigarette boxes, &c., which will, as a consequence be, in future, excluded from the free list.

MALAY PROTECTED STATES.

Customs Tariff of Perak, Selangor, and Negri Sembilan.

The Board of Trade have received, from the High Commissioner of the Federated Malay States, copies of Customs Notifications* which, with the approval of the Resident-General have recently been enacted by the Resident, revising the import and export duties previously in existence in the States of Perak, Selangor, and Negri Sembilan.

The present Notifications, which cancel Customs Notifications previously in force, consolidate the Tariffs by the reimposition, (for the most part) of the duties on articles imported into and exported from each of the above-mentioned States. The more important of the alterations now effected in the Notifications under notice are, it may be stated, those relating to the import duties on opium and spirituous liquors, as well as to the export

* No. 943 for Perak, 672 for Selangor, and 463 for Negri Sembilan.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

MALAY PROTECTED STATES—*continued.*

duties on tin ore. There are also certain alterations, though of minor importance. For the purpose of reference, the complete Tariff—which came into force on 1st November in Selangor, and 6th November in Perak and Negri Sembilan—is now subjoined :—

TABLE OF CUSTOMS DUTIES.

IMPORTS.

Articles.	Rate of Duty.
Indian opium	$560 per chest containing 40 balls.
Opium, other than Indian	$560 per chest, or packet, weighing 120 katis.
Spiritous liquors— Gin ("A.V.H." "Geneva Key Brand" and similar varieties	$3 a case of 15 bottles, and proportionate sums for smaller quantities.
Gin, "other than A.V.H.," "Geneva Key Brand," and similar varieties. Brandy ... ... Whisky ... ... Rum ... ... Liqueurs ... ... Port wine (German) ... ... Samsu, arrack and other spirits manufactured from rice, sugar, or ragi	$1 a gallon, or half dozen quart or dozen pint bottles, and proportionate sums for smaller quantities.
Vermouth	50 cents a gallon, or half dozen quart or dozen pint bottles, and proportionate sums for smaller quantities.
Toddy	12 cents a gallon, or half dozen quart or dozen pint bottles, and proportionate sums for smaller quantities.

EXPORTS.

Articles.	Rate of Duty.
Agricultural products— Tapioca, gambier and pepper ...	2½ per cent. *ad valorem.**
Cocoa-nuts, copra, cocoa-nut oil† and cultivated rubbers	Not exceeding 1½ per cent. *ad valorem.*
Coffee	As in Schedule A.
Sugar¶	1 per cent. *ad valorem.*
Sugar-cane	1 cent per pikul.

* In Selangor gambier and pepper grown on lands held under the special Gambier and Pepper Land Regulations of the 1st August, 1884, will continue to pay duty at the rate of 30 cents per pikul in the case of pepper and 15 cents per pikul in the case of gambier. In Negri Sembilan, the above rate does not apply in cases in which a different rate is specially stipulated in the title for the land.

¶ In Perak and Negri Sembilan, where the year's crop is sold by contract the duty on sugar may be calculated on the contract price.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

MALAY PROTECTED STATES—*continued.*

Articles.	Rate of Duty.
Elephant tusks and ivory	10 per cent. *ad valorem.*
Fish—	
Blachan	50 cents per pikul.
Fish maws, fish refuse, Ikan gulama, prawns (dried)	10 per cent. *ad valorem.*
Salted and dried fish§	10 ,, ,,
Horns and hides	10 ,, ,,
Jungle produce, including timber, firewood, mangrove bark, damar, gharu, rotan, ataps, kajangs, samir, and wood oils, also getahs (not cultivated) other than those specified below.	10 per cent. *ad valorem.* Exemption: Jungle produce exported to any other State of the Federation for *bonâ fide* use or consumption therein.
Gutta percha, and leaves and bark and any other part of all gutta-percha-producing trees belonging to any species of dichopsis (palaquium) or payena, commonly known as—	80 per cent. *ad valorem.* Exemptions: Any gutta-percha or any such leaves, bark or other part as aforesaid which are obtained from trees growing on alienated land the holder whereof shall have cultivated such trees to the satisfaction of the Resident, on all of which an export duty of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. *ad valorem* is hereby imposed.
Getah taban merah	
,, ,, sutra	
,, ,, baik	
,, ,, puteh	
,, ,, chaier	
,, sundek	
,, sempor	
Minerals—	
Gold	5 per cent. *ad valorem.*
Tin‡	As in Schedule B.
Tin ore‡	,, ,, C.
Manufactured tin	Same as tin.
Wolfram‡ ‖	$1 per pikul.
Minerals not specified	5 per cent. *ad valorem.*

In the case of all articles, *except tin and tin ore,* in respect of which export duty is assessed on an *ad valorem* basis, the value of the article will be taken at the average market price at Penang for Perak, and at Singapore for Selangor and Negri Sembilan from the 16th of one month to the 15th of the next month, with a deduction at the rate of 50 cents (25 cents in the case of Perak) a pikul for freight and charges on exportation. The price on which such duty will be assessed as above for each article will be published monthly in the "Government Gazette."

† In Selangor, no duty will be collected on cocoa-nut oil until further notice.

‡ For weighing tin, tin ore and wolfram a fee of 4 cents per pikul is charged in Selangor, and 3 cents in Perak and Negri Sembilan.

§ The 10 per cent. export duty on salted and dried fish imposed in Perak may be commuted for a monthly payment of 30 cents in respect of each person employed in fishing, or 1·40 dols. for each Pukat Leng Kong.

‖ Subject to a rebate of the amount of any difference between the duty so paid on any wolfram and 8 per cent. of the actual price realised by the sale thereof in the Colony.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

MALAY PROTECTED STATES—*continued.*

SCHEDULE A.

COFFEE.

When the price is below 22 dols. per pikul	Nil
When 22 dols. per pikul up to 24 dols. (inclusive)	1 per cent. *ad valorem*
When 24 dols. per pikul up to 26 dols....	1½ „ „
„ 26 „ „ 28 „ ...	2 „ „
„ above 28 dols. per pikul	2½ „ „

The duty on parchment coffee is calculated on two-thirds of the gross weight, and on dry cherry on one-third of the gross weight.

SCHEDULE B.

ALLUVIAL TIN.

	Per bhara.
When the price of tin exceeds 31 dols. per pikul up to 32 dols.	10·50 dols.
For every additional 1 dol. per pikul in the price of tin up to 38 dols.	25 cents
For every additional 1 dol. per pikul in the price of tin thereafter	50 „

The duty will be reckoned on the price telegraphed daily from Penang in the case of Perak, and from Singapore in that of Selangor and Negri Sembilan.

In Perak an additional duty of 50 cents per pikul will be imposed on tin raised for export from such mines within the district of Batang Padang as may from time to time be certified in writing by the Wardens of Mines to be gold-producing mines. Tin exported from Upper Perak and New Territory is charged two-thirds the current rate.

LODE TIN.

Lode tin will pay duty at one half the above rates—subject, however, to a minimum of 5 per cent. *ad valorem*, except in the case of tin lode at Jelebu, where the duty is fixed at 8 per cent. *ad valorem*.

SCHEDULE C.

TIN ORE.

Tin ore exported under such guarantees as the Resident may require that it will be smelted in the Colony of the Straits Settlements.	68 per cent. of the duty on tin.
Tin ore exported without such guarantee.	68 per cent. of the duty on tin, plus an additional duty of 30 dols. per pikul.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

PANAMA.

Consular Services.

The Board of Trade are in receipt of information to the effect that the Provisional Government of Panama have issued a "Decree" notifying that those interested in the despatch of ships or merchandise to Panama may, in the absence of Panama Consular officers, apply to the Consuls of France or of the United States for the legalisation of documents.

The fees to be charged are five dols. for certifying to a manifest, and two dols. for an invoice or a bill of health.

SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Camel Transport.

According to the "Rhodesian Journal of Agriculture," the experiment with camels as transport animals in Rhodesia has proved thoroughly successful. Some 34 first-class camels were imported early in the year. They all arrived at Salisbury in excellent condition, no losses or accidents occurring, and none have ailed since leaving India. After a fortnight's rest the camels were put to work, carrying loads of grain and maize in 200 lbs. sacks from a place about 40 miles from Salisbury, over an undulating surface, with the exception of the last six miles, which is over hilly and rough country. Each male baggage animal carried three sacks, or 600 lbs., the females 400 lbs., trekking 20 to 25 miles a day. At present they are carrying the loads half way, and from thence a waggon with a team of eight camels takes the load, which consists of 8,000 lbs., on to Salisbury, each trip taking three days. This work has been continued for some time, and the animals are now in good, hard condition, the work improving them greatly. These animals are also most useful in the plough, and are exclusively used for this purpose by the natives in many parts of India.

Commenting on the above, "South African Mines, Commerce and Industries" remarks that if the cost of camel transport in the Transvaal be not unduly heavy, camels are likely to grow in favour there as transport animals.

CAPE COLONY.

Table Bay Graving Dock and Patent Slip Charges.

The "Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette" for 4th December contains an official notice approving an amended Tariff of graving dock and patent slip charges framed by the Table Bay Harbour Board which may be seen on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 10 to 1.)

Shipping and Transport.

ORANGE RIVER COLONY.

Railway Regulation Ordinance.

The "Government Gazette" of the Orange River Colony for 27th November contains the text of a Draft Ordinance to regulate the railways in that Colony, including *inter alia* regulations relating to the carriage of goods. Persons interested may see the "Gazette" on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

BRITISH GUIANA.

Cargo in Transit exempt from Tonnage Duty.

The Board of Trade have received through the Colonial Office, a copy of an Ordinance (No. 38 of 1903) amending the Tax Ordinance No. 8 of 1903 with regard to the Tonnage Dues imposed in the Colony of British Guiana.

The present Ordinance was assented to by the Governor on 14th November last, and provides that:—

Cargo transferred from one vessel to another in any part of the Colony or landed or warehoused for the purpose of being shipped to some place outside the Colony shall be exempt from tonnage duty, but should such goods be sold or brought into consumption in the Colony, then they shall be subject to the same rate of tonnage duty as would otherwise have been chargeable.

NOTE.—The tonnage dues imposed under the principal Ordinance No. 8 of 1903 were given on p. 219 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 30th April last.

TURKEY.

Konia-Eregli Railway.

A despatch, dated 30th November, has been received at the Foreign Office from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Konia communicating certain preliminary information respecting the Konia-Eregli Railway, to the effect that the line actually in course of construction will go from Konia *viâ* Karaman to Eregli, a distance of rather less than 200 kilom. Work on the line has been in progress for about four months, and all is ready for the laying of the rails nearly to Karaman. It is hoped that the line will be in working order as far as Karaman in about four months and will be completed to Eregli in 12 or 15 months.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Inland Freight Rates: Classification.

Copies of despatches from a number of H.M. Consular Officers in the United States were received recently at the Foreign Office from H.M. Chargé d'Affaires in Washington, on the subject of freight rates, more particularly inland freights, in that country.

Shipping and Transport.

H.M. Consul-General at New York remarks that railway freights in the United States are subject to the "Interstate Commerce Law," by which differential rates to special parties are made penal both as against the company granting them and the person accepting them.

All goods are classed in an "official classification" agreed to by the various railway and other carrying companies.

There are three "official classifications":—

1. East of the Mississippi River and north of the Ohio River, and called "Eastern classification."

2. West of the Mississippi River, called the "Western classification."

3. South of the Ohio River, called the "Southern classification."

These "classifications" show in what class goods are classified, and they are rarely departed from, except in cases where, in order to encourage manufactures of a particular district, "special" or "commodity" rates are granted to certain goods. These rates must be granted to the same goods carried anywhere by the railway granting the commodity rates, and any grant of commodity rates must be notified by the granting company to the Interstate Commerce Commissioners at Washington ten days previous to being put in force.

The freight rates between any particular points are, as a general rule, based on the proportion of the distance covered, to the distance from New York to Chicago.

In order to ascertain the freight on any particular shipment of merchandise from any point to New York, it will be necessary to ascertain:—

1. The railway on which the station is situated.

2. The "base" or proportionate distance from New York, as compared with that from New York to Chicago.

3. The rate in cents per "class," according to the base.

4. The amount shipped, *i.e.*, a "car-load" (C.L.), or "less than car-load" (L.C.L.).

5. From the "official classification" the class of merchandise.

In addition, there are often charges for lightering and transshipment in New York, but these cannot be calculated until it is known where the vessel by which the shipment takes place is berthed.

H.M. Consul at Chicago in his report gives a number of special through freight rates to Australia and New Zealand.

A later despatch has also been received from H.M. Consul at Chicago supplementing the information contained in his report by a notification of further changes in freight rates.

Copies of the despatches, together with a number of rate books and classification books may be seen on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

MINERALS, METALS AND MACHINERY.

CANADA.

Mycenæan Marble.

The United States Consul at St. Thomas, Ontario, writing under date of 26th October last, reports improvements in the manufacture of Mycenæan marble, an artificial material used extensively in the decoration of halls, houses, hotel lobbies, &c. This material is sometimes referred to as coral marble or coral tiling. The Consul says the Mycenæan marble is practically a real marble artificially manufactured; that it is greatly admired for its columnar and wainscotting effects; that it has been put into many of the large hotels, public buildings, &c., of Canada and the United States. The colour effects are considered especially fine and the durability of the tiles is said to be very great. Another advantage noted is the applicability of the tiling to almost any surface, rough or smooth. The process is said to be a secret one, known only to the inventor, who has sold his rights to a Canadian company.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH—SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Phosphate Deposits.

The "Queensland Government Mining Journal" states that another deposit of phosphates has been found on Yorke Peninsula, South Australia. The Government Geologist of the State (Mr. H. Y. L. Brown) reports that it is similar in mode of occurrence to the deposits of Clinton, Bright, and Belvidere. Trenches have been made in two principal places, at a distance of about 100 yards apart, which have exposed boulders and lumps of phosphate rock, associated with argillaceous, arenaceous, and calcareous beds.

Samples taken from the workings and analysed returned tricalcic phosphate, 82·95 per cent., 74·8 per cent., 72·36 per cent., and 70·07 per cent. At the north end of the section samples, consisting of hydrous phosphate of alumina, with limestones, clay, &c., on analysis returned from 13 to 22·4 per cent. of phosphoric acid. Mr. Brown adds that "it is most probable that large and workable bodies of phosphate will be found when further prospecting work has been done. The Cambrian limestone is exposed in several detached areas over this and the adjoining hundreds as far south as Curramulka, and it is in the vicinity of these outcrops that phosphate rock deposits are most likely to be found." (*Vide* "Board of Trade Journal" of 5th September, 1901, p. 528.)

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH—WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Gold Production in November.

The Board of Trade have received from the office of the Agent-General for Western Australia a communication stating that the crushing returns for the month of November, 1903, for all gold mining companies in the State, are as follows, the figures for November, 1902, being added for purposes of comparison:—

—	November, 1902.	November, 1903.
Ore treated	165,044 tons	183,176 tons
Yield of gold	187,037 ozs.	188,460 ozs.
Average yield per ton...	1 oz. 2 dwts. 16 grs.	1 oz. 0 dwts. 13 grs.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Perak Tin Smelting.

The Colonial Office report on the Straits Settlements, recently issued, states that tin ore from Perak, which formerly came to Singapore to be dealt with, is now sent to the smelting works in Province Wellesley of the Straits Trading Company, and the smelted tin is shipped from Penang, in place of from Singapore.

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO.

Coal Deposits.

A recent issue of the "British North Borneo Herald" reports the existence of an extensive coal bed at Serudong. Coal of apparently good quality exists in very large quantities in the vicinity, and under certain favourable conditions the discovery may be pronounced a valuable financial asset. With regard to the question of labour, however, some little difficulty may be experienced.

On the other hand, the conditions of the recently discovered coal fields are reported as extremely favourable. The seam is 6 ft. 10 in. thick, the dip good from the miner's point of view, being only 1 in 12; and no trouble from water is anticipated. The situation of the outcrop is stated to be excellent. It is contemplated that a shaft of, say, 200 yards length can be sunk over the coal close beside the river, and that the mineral can be dumped into lighters lying alongside a wharf only a few yards distant from the pit's mouth.

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Production of Minor Minerals in 1902.

According to the "Engineering and Mining Journal" (New York) of 5th December, the Bureau of the Census at Washington has recently made public the following statistics, covering the production and value of some of the minor minerals in the United States in 1902:—

—	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons of 2,000 lbs.	Dollars.
Corundum and emery	4,251	104,605
Garnet	3,926	132,820
Infusorial earth, tripoli, and pumice	6,240	54,558
Marl	12,439	12,741
Buhrstones and millstones	—	59,808
Crystalline quartz	—	43,085
Grindstones and pulpstones	—	667,431
Oilstones and whetstones	—	113,968
Asbestos	2,505	46,200
Barytes	58,269	193,884
Borax	43,010	2,383,614
	Tons of 2,240 lbs.	—
Bauxite	29,222	128,206
Sulphur and pyrites	207,874	947,089

AGRICULTURE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Corn Prices.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 26th December, were as follow:—

Wheat	26*s.*	5*d.*
Barley	22*s.*	5*d.*
Oats	15*s.*	6*d.*

For further particulars see p. 661.

Imports of Agricultural Produce.

A statement is published on p. 662, showing the quantities of the various descriptions of agricultural produce imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 26th December, 1903, as well as of the imports during the corresponding week of 1902.

Agriculture.

UNITED KINGDOM—*continued.*

Fruit Culture: Committee of Enquiry.

The President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries has appointed a Departmental Committee to enquire into and report upon the present position of fruit culture in Great Britain, and to consider whether any further measures might with advantage be taken for its promotion and encouragement.

The Committee is constituted as follows, viz.:—Mr. A. G. Boscawen, M.P. (Chairman); Mr. C. W. Radcliffe Cooke; Mr. J. M. Hodge; Colonel Charles W. Long, M.P.; Mr. George Monro; Mr. P. Spencer Pickering, M.A., F.R.S.; Dr. W. Somerville, an Assistant Secretary of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries; Mr. Edwin Vinson; and Rev. W. Wilks, M.A., Secretary of the Royal Horticultural Society. Mr. Ernest Garnsey, of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, will act as Secretary to the Committee.

BRITISH INDIA—BURMA.

Experimental Cultivations.

With regard to experimental cultivation carried on in Burma with the view of stimulating new industries, the report of the Director of Agriculture states that Havana tobacco was most successful, and a large trade in Danubyn cheroots has sprung up. Vegetables, too, did well on the whole, but with groundnut only partial success is reported. American cotton was tried in three districts, but the results were not encouraging, for though short-staple indigenous kinds throve well the long-staple Egyptian and American varieties failed.

Regarding experiments with Kurseong tea, the Director of Agriculture writes: "There are, it is believed, immense areas of land suitable for tea cultivation in the northern districts, and there appears to be no reason why Burma should not, in time, enter into close competition with other tea-producing countries in supplying local and even foreign demands." Coffee has been tried and the tests are to be continued on a larger scale, and Para rubber, hemp, China grass, wheat, paddy, and other products were grown with more or less success, whilst an effort is also being made to revive sericulture in several districts.

CANADA.

Exports of Dairy Produce from Montreal.

From figures given in the "Montreal Gazette," it appears that the value of dairy produce exported from that city for the navigable season of 1903 was 26,369,000 dols. The quantity so exported in 1898 was 19,000,000 dols. worth, so that the increase has been at the rate of nearly two million dollars a year.

Agriculture.

It is stated that the quality of Canadian cheese is admirably maintained, probably due as much to better methods of making, improved buildings, and so on, as to the cool weather prevailing and the iced cars and compartments provided for its transportation. The following figures show the season's shipments of cheese with comparisons for the two preceding years :—

—	Boxes.	Price per Box.	Value.
	No.	Dollars.	Dollars.
1901	1,791,613	7·00	12,541,291
1902	2,109,171	8·50	17,927,000
1903	2,395,932	9·00	21,563,388

Shipments of butter during the season under review were a little less than 5,000,000 dols. in value as against 8,000,000 dols. in 1902. It is remarked that Canadians still need to improve their methods of cooling and transmitting butter, and to adopt a system of shipping at regular intervals, with cold storage and chilled chamber transmission. The following table shows the results of the season's butter shipments with comparative figures for 1902 and 1903 :—

—	Boxes.	Price per Box.	Value.
	No.	Dollars.	Dollars.
1901	410,000	14·70	6,027,000
1902	539,845	14·70	7,936,121
1903	338,277	14·20	4,803,533

GRENADA.

Cocoa and Cotton Industries.

According to the recent Colonial Office report on Grenada, the average crop of cocoa for the five years ended 30th September, 1901, was 53,379 bags (of about 180 lbs. each, the unit adopted locally for recording purposes), while that for 1902 was 61,285 bags, a marked and satisfactory increase which may be taken as indicating the effect of improved methods as well as of extended cultivation. A great advance has been made in this direction of late years by the larger proprietors, and it is hoped that the efforts made to induce similar action among the peasant proprietors are beginning to bear fruit. The Agricultural Instructor, appointed in 1901, largely with that object in view, did excellent work in this direction in 1902, and the Imperial Department of Agriculture has also established experimental plots, as object lessons, in important districts.

Agriculture.

Cotton and cotton seed are at present exclusively the product of Carriacou, the principal dependency of Grenada. In 1902 the actual export was 2,212 cwt. of raw cotton, and 4,536 cwt. of cotton seed, valued at 4,069*l.*

The climate and weather conditions of Carriacou being pre-eminently suitable for this product, it is of happy augury that the revived demand in England for cotton from her colonies should coincide in point of time with the opening up to the peasant proprietor by Government action of the lands of Carriacou, too long dormant in the hands of absentee proprietors. In October, 1902, the work of surveying the first estate selected by the Government to be purchased and broken up into small lots for sale was commenced, and at the date of this report (15th October, 1903) 160 peasants have been settled on it as proprietors, and the survey of a second estate is proceeding. In connection with the scheme attention is being paid to other important details, such as a system of forest conservation and of re-afforestation, improved water supply, and better methods of cultivation and of reaping the crops, and the future of the dependency may now be contemplated in a hopeful spirit.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Pine-apple Industry.

The report for 1902 on the Straits Settlements states that in Singapore the pine-apple industry has continued to prosper, the area planted with pines being still further extended. Notwithstanding this the price of the fruit has risen.

Four hundred and twenty-six thousand (426,000) cases of pine-apples were sent to Europe and America during the year, an increase of 25,000 cases.

FRANCE.

Wine Production in 1903.

The production of wine in France in 1903, according to the "Politique Coloniale" of the 11th/15th December, is officially estimated at 35,402,336 hectolitres (hectolitre = 22 imperial gallons), being a decrease of 4,481,447 hectolitres compared with the production of the previous year, and of 8,418,367 hectolitres as compared with the average of the last ten years. Including the Governor-General's estimate of 6,600,000 hectolitres for Algeria, the total production amounts to 42 million hectolitres.

The decrease is attributed to the unfavourable climatic conditions that prevailed during the year.

The value of the output is estimated at 948,389,660 francs (37,935,000*l.*), of which amount 71,552,252 frs. (2,862,000*l.*) is for the superior quality wines, and 876,820,508 frs. (35,073,000*l.*) ordinary quality wines.

Agriculture.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Tobacco Cultivation in Dalmatia.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of the following memorandum from H.M. Consul at Trieste, respecting the cultivation of tobacco in Dalmatia.

Fostered by the Government, the cultivation of tobacco in Dalmatia is increasing. The produce of the district of Trau in 1903 amounted in value to 6,000*l.*, and the cultivators hope to double that quantity next year. The production of the whole Province of Dalmatia amounted to over 3,000 tons.

After chrysanthemum, almonds, wine and oil, tobacco forms, says the Consul, an appreciable resource for that Province.

MISCELLANEOUS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Cotton Statistics.

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the 5 days ended the 23rd December was 116,535 and the number imported during the 51 weeks and 5 days ended the 23rd December was 3,712,407. As regards exports, the figures are, for the 5 days ended the 23rd December, 4,267 bales, and for the 51 weeks and 5 days 517,472.

For further details see p. 661.

BRITISH INDIA.

Encouraging Paper Industry.

The "Times of India" of 28th November reports that the Madras Government having decided to buy paper of different kinds from Indian mills, instead of through the India Office, over 2½ lakhs of rupees have been allotted for the purpose.

CEYLON.

Pearl Fishery, 1903.

With reference to the paragraph on p. 512 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 11th June, 1903, the official report on the Ceylon pearl fishery in 1903 has now been issued.

As regards the general results of the fishery, it is stated that the total number of oysters brought in as Government share was 27,453,425. As this figure only represents two-thirds of the oysters fished, the total number of oysters fished must equal 41,180,137. But there is reason to believe that the total number fished was much larger, for it is notorious that the boats open a large quantity of oysters and secrete their pearls, notwithstanding all precautions on the part of Government. It is estimated that

Miscellaneous.

one-eighth more might be added to the total number of oysters actually fished, giving a resultant total of about 46,000,000 oysters. The fishery may be said to have been a very satisfactory one to all concerned. It brought the Government 8¼ lakhs of rupees, and ranks third in the fisheries hitherto conducted by the British Government. The merchants were pleased and the divers and boatmen were satisfied with their gains.

Chiefly owing to the fact that no fishery was held in Ceylon for the last 12 years, and to the demand in the Indian and English markets, the trade in pearls during the season under review was very brisk, and the prices paid were unprecedented. It is generally believed that the fishery of 1903 turned out very good single pearls, many of which were sold for prices varying from Rs. 500 to Rs. 3,000. About the close of the fishery, when most of the merchants had closed their business, it was not possible either to sell or purchase any pearls, the prices offered in the case of sales being too low, and those demanded from purchasers being very high.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH—QUEENSLAND.

Trade of Queensland first Nine Months of 1903.

The Board of Trade have received from the Collector of Customs at Brisbane a copy of the Customs statistics of Queensland giving preliminary figures (including Inter-State commerce) showing the value of the trade of that State during the nine months ended 30th September last, as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year. The following is a summarised statement from the return in question :—

—	Nine months ended 30th Sept.	
	1902.	1903.
	£	£
Total value of Imports*	4,735,647	4,866,694
,, **Exports***	5,585,010	5,542,095
Principal Exports—		
Gold	1,919,871	2,071,509
Hides and skins	306,307	279,474
Meat, preserved and frozen	947,944	600,894
Pearl shell and beche-de-mer	82,821	117,823
Sugar	344,532	252,630
Tallow	145,552	61,755
Tin	87,883	167,258
Wool	1,114,973	1,009,677
Green fruit	63,384	85,935
Copper	†	187,739
All other	571,743	707,401

* Including gold coin, as follows :—

	1902.	1903.
Imports	£275,000	£68,000
Exports	98,982	40,287

† Included in "All other."

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Cotton Returns.

Return of the **Number** of **Bales** of **Cotton Imported** and **Exported** at the **Various Ports** of the **United Kingdom** during the 5 Days and 51 Weeks and 5 Days ended 23rd December, 1903.

—	5 Days ended 23rd Dec., 1903.	51 Weeks and 5 Days ended 23rd Dec., 1903.	5 Days ended 23rd Dec., 1903.	51 Weeks and 5 Days ended 23rd Dec., 1903.
	IMPORTS. (Bales.)		EXPORTS. (Bales.)	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
American	98,109	2,896,230	850	298,058
Brazilian	1,500	162,491	—	40,439
East Indian	65	163,205	556	74,609
Egyptian	15,906	420,121	2,649	94,834
Miscellaneous	955	70,360	212	9,532
Total	116,535	3,712,407	4,267	517,472

Corn Prices.

Statement showing the **Average Price** of **British Corn**, per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure,* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 26th December, 1903, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

—	Average Price.					
	Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Week ended 26th December, 1903 ...	26	5	22	5	15	6
Corresponding week in—						
1896	30	6	24	8	16	2
1897	34	6	27	3	17	1
1898	26	11	28	4	17	0
1899	25	9	25	5	16	2
1900	26	4	25	10	17	2
1901	27	7	26	8	19	10
1902	24	10	24	1	16	8

* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.

Imports of Agricultural Produce into the United Kingdom.

Account showing the Quantities of certain kinds of **Agricultural Produce** imported into the **United Kingdom** in the week ended 26th December, 1903, together with the quantities imported in the corresponding week of the previous year.

—		Week ended 26th Dec., 1903.	Corresponding week in 1902
Animals, living :—			
Oxen, bulls, cows, and calves	Number.	10,891	5,029
Sheep and lambs	"	13,410	4,610
Swine	"	—	—
Horses	"	50	332
Fresh meat :—			
Beef...	Cwts.	65,536	54,526
Mutton	"	56,550	33,170
Pork	"	21,099	13,196
Salted or preserved meat :—			
Bacon	Cwts.	73,932	73,398
Beef	"	4,460	1,003
Hams	"	18,026	15,924
Pork	"	3,177	1,379
Meat, unenumerated, salted or fresh ...	"	7,963	8,090
Meat, preserved otherwise than by salting	"	22,699	10,050
Dairy produce and substitutes :—			
Butter	Cwts.	65,465	51,800
Margarine	"	15,332	11,380
Cheese	"	29,717	13,335
Milk, fresh, in cans or drums	"	30	223
" cream	"	172	104
" condensed	"	11,469	15,956
" preserved, other kinds	"	70	108
Eggs	Grt. Hundr.	279,112	229,321
Poultry and game	Value £	115,217	40,353
Rabbits, dead (not tinned)	Cwts.	6,586	4,193
Lard	"	31,931	33,215
Corn, grain, meal and flour :—			
Wheat	Cwts.	1,240,600	1,070,548
Wheat meal and flour	"	760,800	307,053
Barley	"	440,400	409,565
Oats	"	252,100	260,460
Peas	"	52,780	55,242
Beans	"	24,570	15,968
Maize or Indian corn	"	1,320,800	320,213
Fruit, raw :—			
Apples	Cwts.	37,922	56,309
Apricots and peaches	"	—	—
Bananas	Bunches.	24,143	39,283
Cherries	Cwts.	—	—
Currants	"	—	—
Gooseberries	"	—	—
Grapes	"	146	909
Lemons	"	14,399	9,722
Oranges	"	230,533	109,201
Pears	"	537	767
Plums	"	—	147
Strawberries	"	—	—
Unenumerated	"	305	2,707
Hay	Tons.	3,305	2,177
Straw	"	2,284	816
Hops	Cwts.	5,353	4,620
Locust beans...	"	855	27,320
Vegetables, raw :—			
Onions	Bushels.	120,726	64,565
Potatoes	Cwts.	100,334	35,100
Tomatoes	"	4,636	7,731
Unenumerated	Value £	6,411	3,240
Vegetables, dried	Cwts.	5,347	8,070
Preserved by canning	"	12,462	4,560

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of November, 1903, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a cost of 1*s.* per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, London, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1902, in two volumes, may be purchased at a cost of 6*s.* 11*d.* for the first, and 5*s.* for the second volume, at any of the addresses enumerated above. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives Abstract Tables for the years 1898-1902, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country), and in the second volume details as to customs duties, trade in coin and bullion, transhipments, and articles in bond, and particulars of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

This Gazette is published by the Board of Trade about the 15th of each month. The following are among the more important articles which appeared in the number issued on the 16th December:—State of the Labour Market in November; Changes in the Cost of Food in the United States of America, 1890–1902; Proceedings under the Conciliation Act in 1901–3; Recent Progress in Co-operation; Recent Conciliation and Arbitration Cases and Collective Agreements; Prices of Bread, Wheat, and Flour; Reports on Employment in the Principal Industries; Legal Cases affecting Labour, &c., &c.

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

The following is a *résumé* of some of the more interesting subjects dealt with in a Consular Report of the **Annual Series** issued since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal."

No. 3,110. Sardinia, 1902.

Yield of corn, wine, and olive oil, showing diminution except in the last-named.

Reduced output of minerals.

Causes of declining British trade.

Returns of imports, exports, and shipping.

Government Publications.

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORT.

A report from the following British Colony has been issued since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal," viz.:—

No. 410. Malta.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

Africa No. 15 (1903). *General Report on the Uganda Protectorate for the Year ending* 31*st March*, 1903. [*Cd.* 1,839.] *Price* 4*d.*

This report deals with the administration of the Uganda Protectorate during the year ended 31st March last and contains particulars as to public works, finance, trade and natural resources of the Protectorate. Statements of the value of the goods imported into Uganda from various countries during the year in question are appended to the report.

Foreign Import Duties. Statement. [*Cd.* 1,735.] *Price* 1*s.* 11*d.*

This return, which has been compiled in the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade, shows the rates of import duty levied in the principal European countries, in the United States, China, and Japan, on the produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom, so far as the information in question has been notified to the Board of Trade. The present return, which is issued in continuation of that published in July, 1902 (Cd. 780), contains for the first time statements of the rates of duty leviable in China on British goods, whilst new headings for certain commodities, viz., animals (living) for food, fresh meat, wheat and wheat flour, have been raised in the section relating to articles of food.

Naval Expenditure and Mercantile Marine (*Great Britain, &c.*). 284. *Price* 1*d.*

This return, which has been compiled in the Commercial, Labour and Statistical Department of the Board of Trade in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 373 of Session 1902, contains statistics of the sea-borne trade, the shipping, revenue and naval expenditure of the United Kingdom, India, the British Colonies, and the principal foreign countries. The figures given relate as far as possible to the year 1902; in the cases where statistics for the year are not available the figures for the latest year for which particulars have been published are given.

Government Publications.

LIST OF FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

THE following Reports of H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Officers, which have been issued in the **Annual** and **Miscellaneous** Series since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.

The titles of the Miscellaneous Series are printed in italics.

No.	Place.	Price
	EUROPE—	
	Austria-Hungary:	
3073	Austria-Hungary ...1902	1½*d.*
3075	Bohemia ... ... „	2*d.*
3094	Bosnia and Herzegovina ... ... „	½*d.*
3082	Fiume ... ... „	1*d.*
3015	Trieste ... ... „	1½*d.*
	Belgium:	
3104	Belgium 1902	2*d.*
	Bulgaria:	
3002	Bulgaria 1902	1*d.*
	Denmark:	
2934	Denmark (Supplementary) 1901	1*d.*
2994	Denmark 1902	4*d.*
2984	Faroe Islands ... ... —	2½*d.*
	France and Colonies:	
3071	Algeria 1902	2*d.*
3016	Bordeaux ... ... „	2½*d.*
2949	Brest ... ... „	1½*d.*
2976	Calais ... ... „	2*d.*
2955	Cherbourg ... ... „	1½*d.*
3010	Corsica ... ... „	1*d.*
3028	Dahomey ... ... „	1*d.*
3011	Dunkirk ... ... „	2*d.*
3101	France ... 1902, and Eight Months of 1903	1½*d.*
3106	French Guiana ...1902	1½*d.*
2941	French Guinea ...1901	½*d.*
3069	„ „ ...1902	½*d.*
2939	Havre (Agriculture) ... „	½*d.*
2960	Havre ... ... „	3*d.*
2966	Indo-China ... ... „	½*d.*
3056	Lyons, St. Etienne and Grenoble ... ... „	1*d.*
3087	Madagascar ... ... „	1*d.*
3047	Marseilles ... ... „	2½*d.*
2978	Nantes ... ... „	1*d.*
3005	New Caledonia ... „	½*d.*
3049	Nice ... ... „	1*d.*
3021	Pondicherry & Karikal „	1*d.*
2993	Réunion ... ... „	½*d.*
3089	Senegal... ... ... „	2*d.*
3065	Society Islands ... „	1½*d.*
	German Empire and Colonies:	
2982	Baden 1902	1*d.*
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2956	Chemnitz ... ... „	1*d.*
3068	Dantzig ... ... „	1*d.*
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2959	Germany ... ... „	1½*d.*
3085	„ First half of 1903	2*d.*
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2989	Prussian Estimates 1903-04	1*d.*
591	*German Technical High Schools ... ...*	*3d.*
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597	*Instruction in Mining and Metallurgy in Germany and the Mining and Metallurgical Industries..*	*2½d.*
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2957	Cyclades 1902	1*d.*
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3095	Ancona... 1902	½*d.*
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3018	Genoa ... ... „	3*d.*
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3080	Sicily ... ... „	2½*d.*

Government Publications.

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2965	Amsterdam 1902	1*d.*
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3105	Archangel 1901 and 1902	1*d.*
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2997	„ (Agriculture)...1902	1½*d.*
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2964	„ 1902	2*d.*
2992	Cadiz ... ... „	2*d.*
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3041	Gothenburg 1902	2½*d.*
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2970	Aleppo and Adana ...1902	2*d.*
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3100	Salonica ... ... „	1*d.*
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2931	Alexandria ...1901 and part of 1902	1*d.*
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2967	Boston 1902	2½*d.*
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3077	Costa Rica 1902	1*d.*
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	Argentina:	
2940	Argentine finances 1901–02	1½*d.*
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3061	Bahia 1902	1*d.*
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2946	Coquimbo 1901	½*d.*
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598	*Coffee trade...*	½*d.*
	Paraguay:	
3007	Paraguay 1902	1*d.*
	Peru:	
3079	Peru 1902	2½*d.*
	Venezuela:	
3017	Venezuela 1902	1*d.*
	WEST INDIES—	
3076	Cuba 1902	1½*d.*
2927	Hayti 1901	1*d.*
3091	„ 1902	½*d.*
	ASIA—	
	China:	
3066	Amoy 1902	1*d.*
2985	Canton ... ... „	1½*d.*
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3030	Hakodate 1902	1½*d.*
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The following numbers of the Treaty Series issued since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from the above-mentioned sources :—

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Government Publications.

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Government Publications.

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	Persia:	
10	Commercial Convention between the United Kingdom and Persia	3*d.*
7	International Convention relative to bounties on sugar ...	1½*d.*

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to H.M. Colonial Possessions issued since 1st January, 1903, may be purchased from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.:—

Annual.

No.	Place.	Price.
377	Northern Nigeria	2½*d.*
378	British Guiana	2½*d.*
379	Mauritius	3½*d.*
380	Basutoland	3*d.*
381	Southern Nigeria	2½*d.*
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407	Trinidad and Tobago	1½*d.*
408	Basutoland	3*d.*
409	Northern Nigeria	—
410	Malta	3*d.*
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—	Cyprus. Report on the Agricultural Fund	2*d.*

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH

OF THE

BOARD OF TRADE.

The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade was established in 1899, in consequence of a report by a Departmental Committee, with a view to meet the constantly increasing demand for prompt and accurate information on commercial matters, so far as it can be met by Government action. It is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and focussed in a form convenient for reference. In addition, it is the duty of the Branch, as far as circumstances permit, to afford information in reply to all enquiries on commercial matters which may be addressed to it, whether written or verbal.

The office is temporarily housed at No. 50, Parliament Street, London, S.W., and (subject to the Comptroller-General of the Commercial, Statistical, and Labour Departments of the Board of Trade) is under the direction of Mr. T. Worthington. The Intelligence Branch endeavours, on application being made to it either personally or by letter, to supply information with regard to the following subjects, viz.:—Commercial Statistics: Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs: Excise and "Consumption" Duties: Port, Harbour, and Tonnage Dues, and other Charges on Shipping: Customs Regulations: Consular Fees: Forms of Certificates of Origin: Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers: Trading Licences: Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender: Foreign and Colonial Bounties: Lists of firms abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities, &c., &c.

In consequence of the transfer of the Imperial Institute to the Board of Trade from the beginning of the present year, the work formerly carried on by the Commercial Intelligence Offices of the Imperial Institute is now conducted by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade. The question of transferring the headquarters of this Branch from Westminster to the City is receiving the attention of the Board of Trade, and meanwhile verbal enquiries may be addressed to the Branch through the Temporary Enquiry Office which has been opened in the City Branch of the Imperial Institute at 49, Eastcheap, E.C.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch is also in communication with the Imperial Institute at South Kensington, of which Professor Wyndham Dunstan, F.R.S., has been appointed director by the Board of Trade. Among the branches of work in charge of Professor Dunstan are the scientific investigation of the economic products of the British Empire with a view to their commercial utilisation, and the superintendence of the arrangement and classification of the Collections of these products which are exhibited at the Institute. From time to time samples and specimens of raw and manufactured products will be shown in the sample room at the City Branch.

The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch and intended for general information is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is now issued weekly at the price of 1*d*. In future, periodical supplements to the "Board of Trade Journal" will be issued, containing information and reports bearing on the work carried out in the Imperial Institute at South Kensington.

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT, BOARD OF TRADE.

January, 1903.

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Price ONE PENNY.

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THE Board of Trade Journal

(With which is incorporated the "Imperial Institute Journal.")

Edited by the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

DECEMBER 31, 1903.

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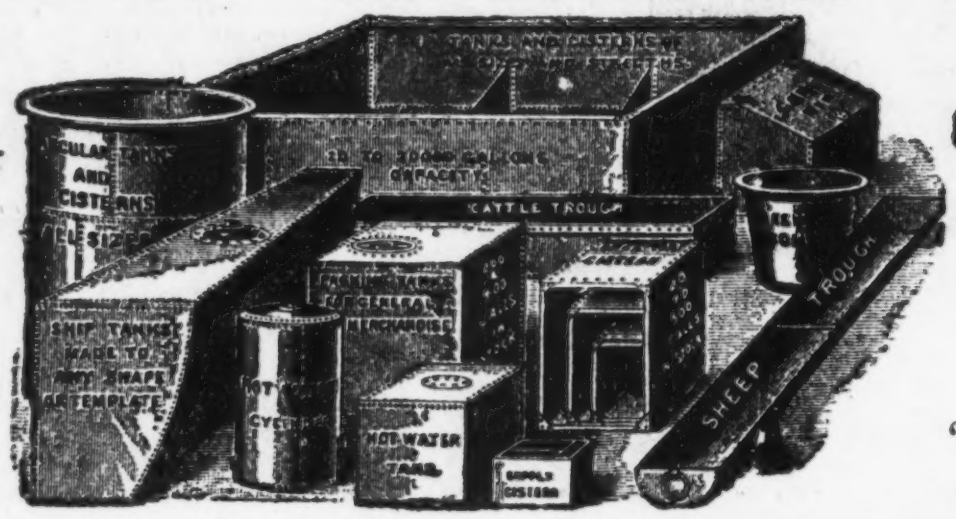

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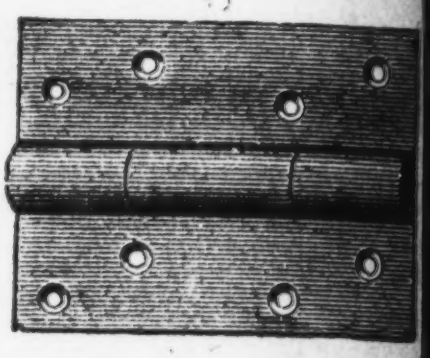

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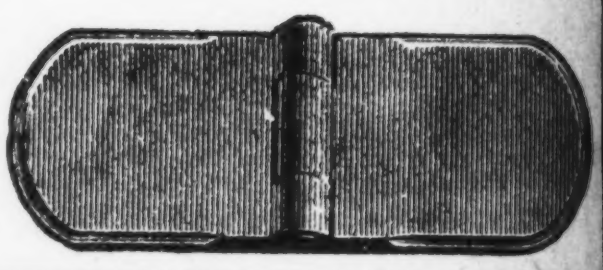

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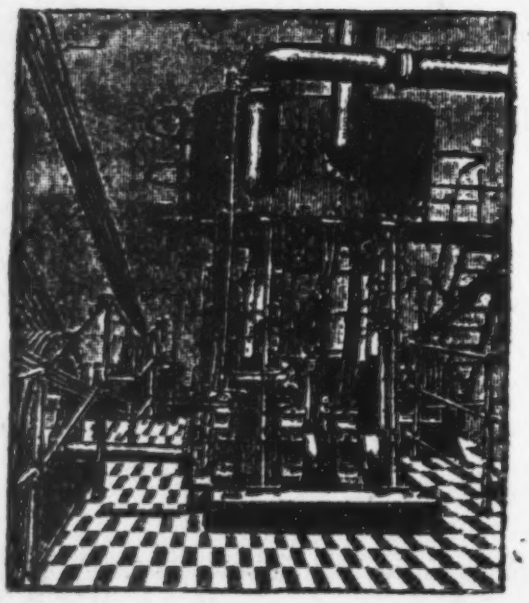

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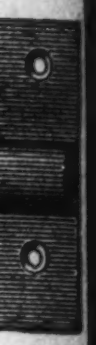

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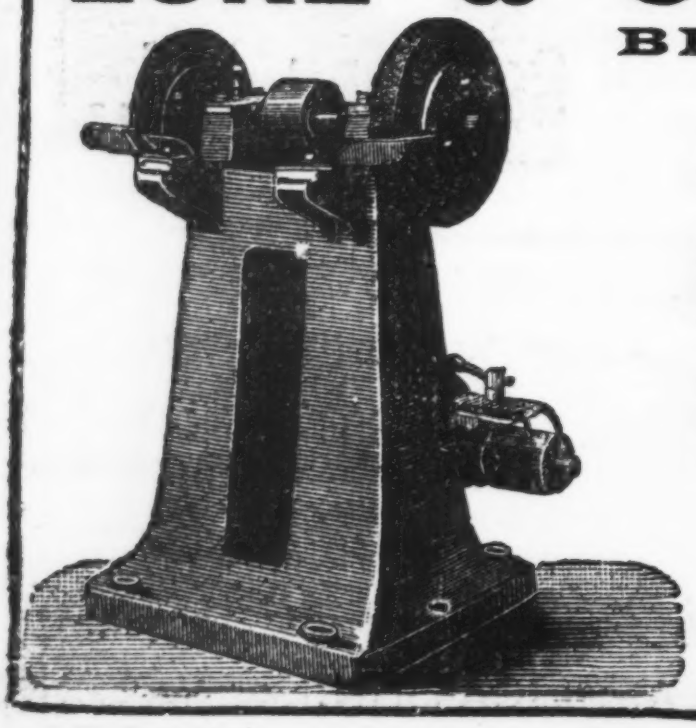

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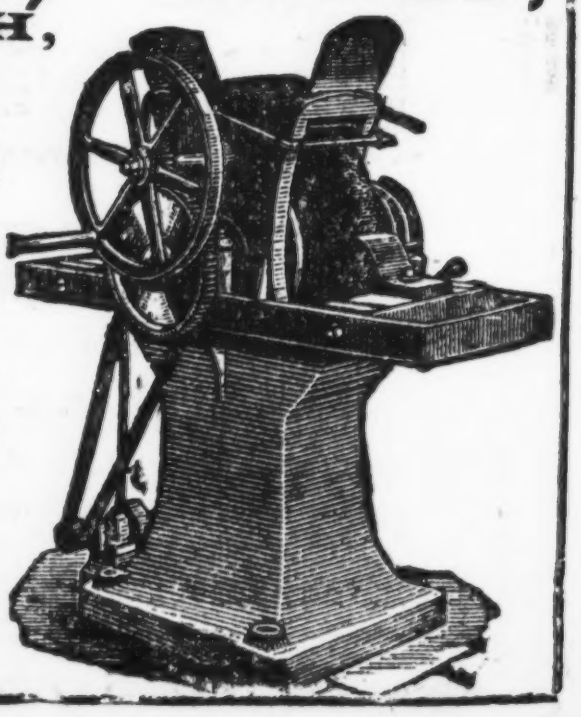

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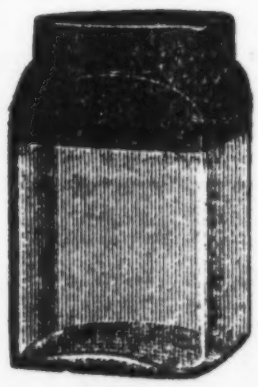

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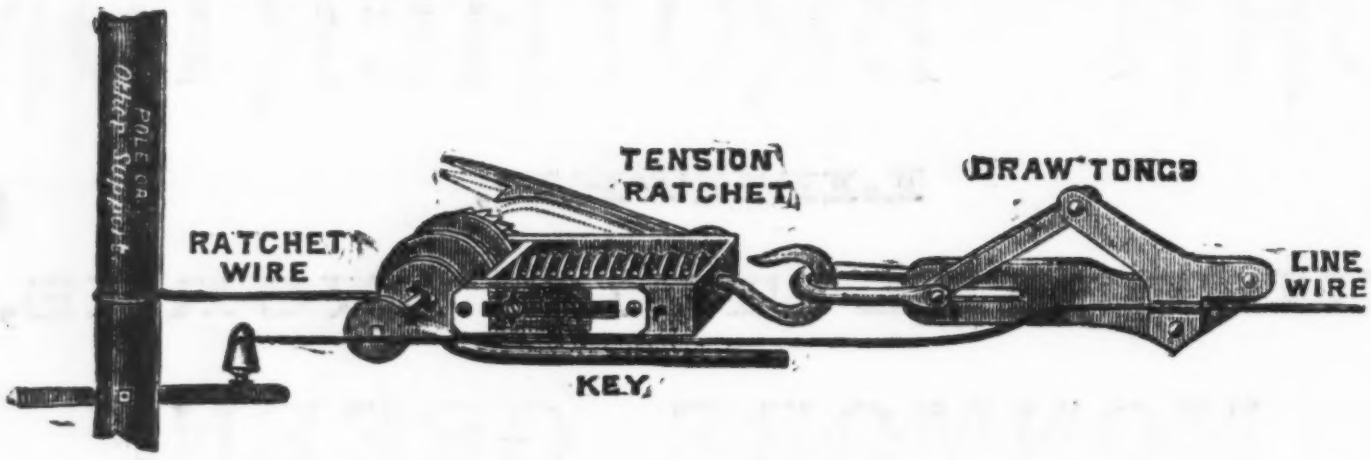

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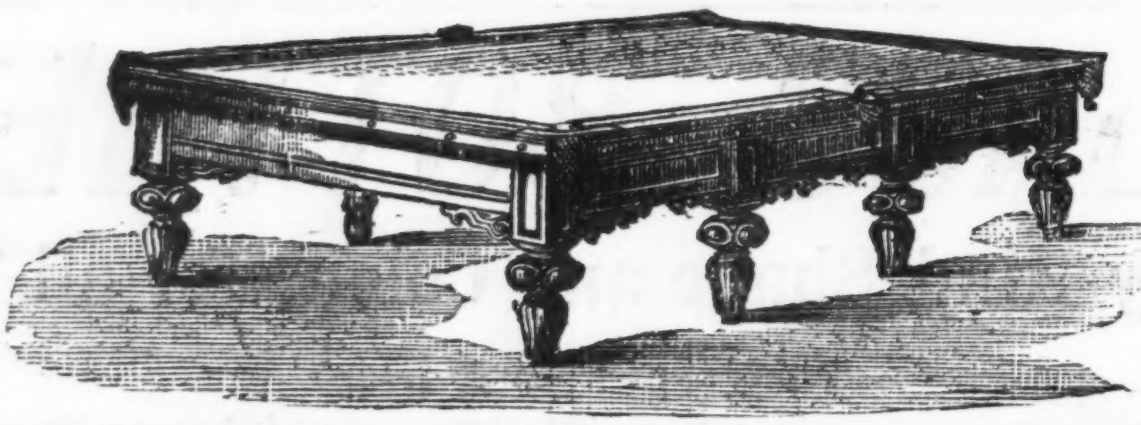

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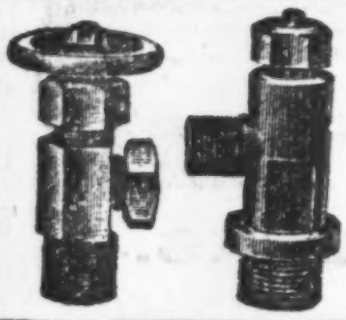

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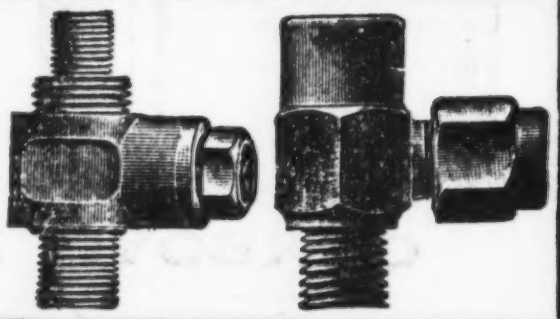

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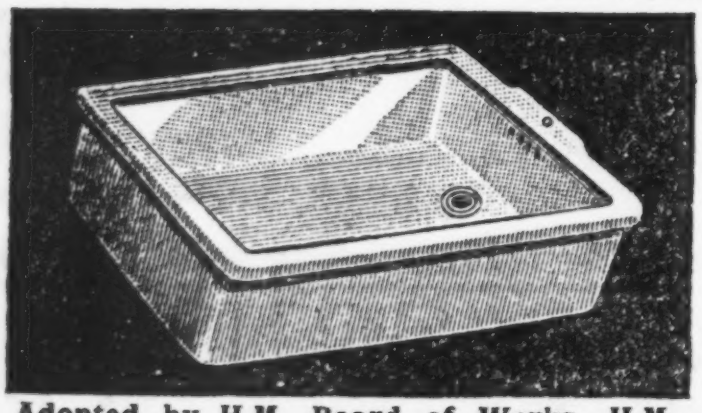

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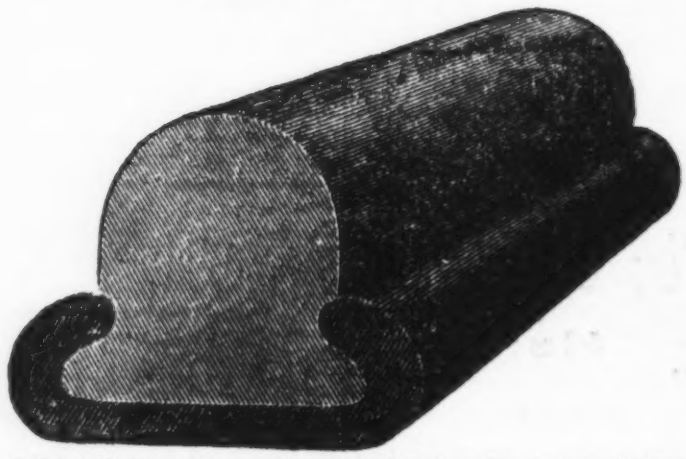

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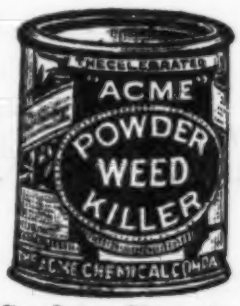

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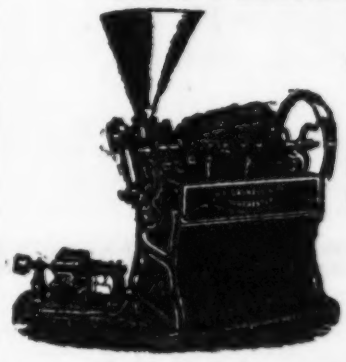

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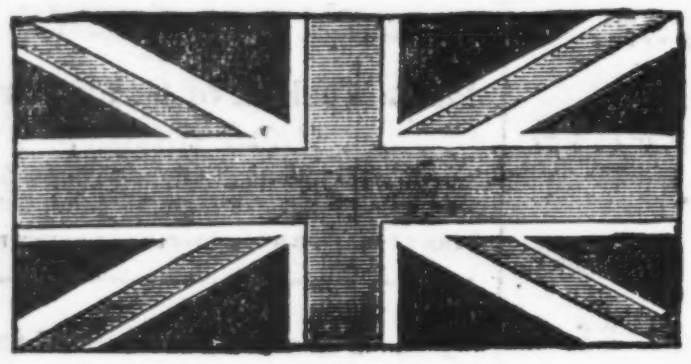

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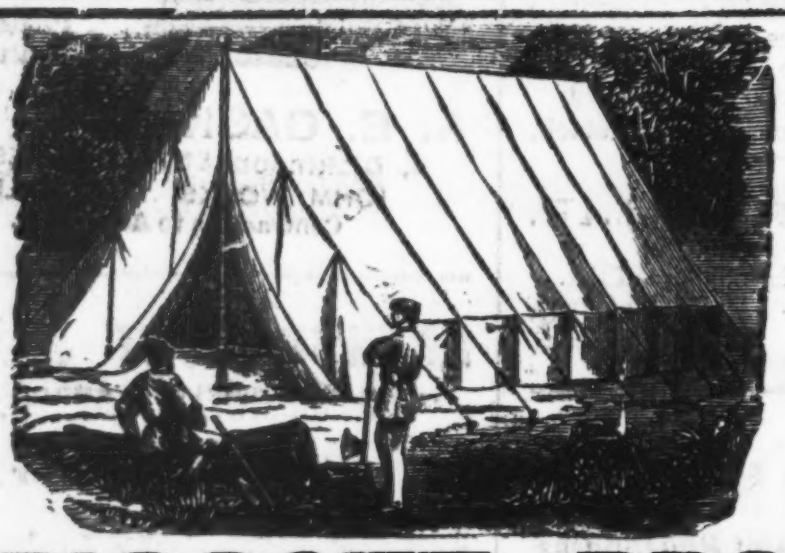

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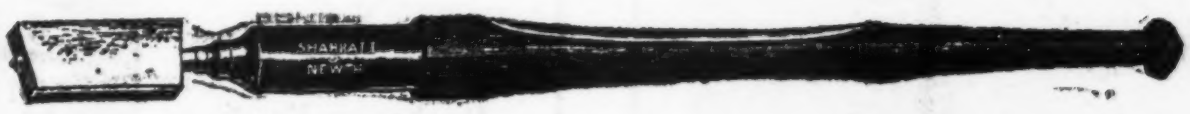

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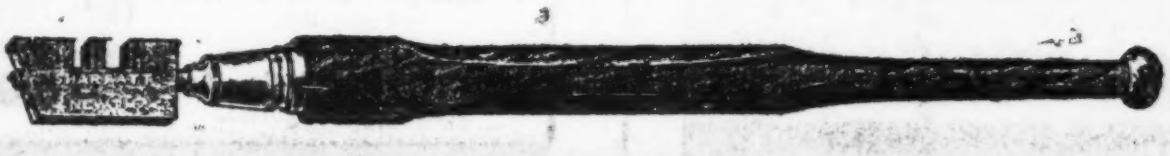

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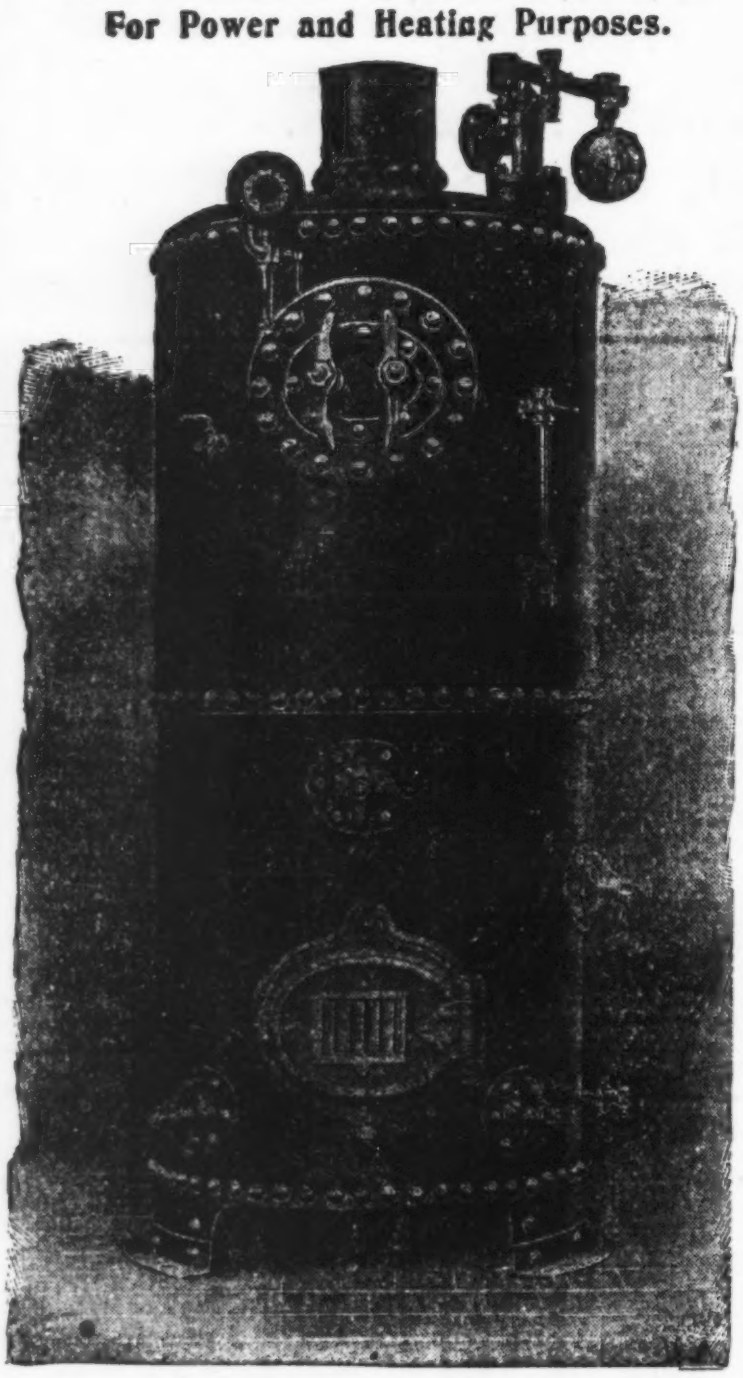

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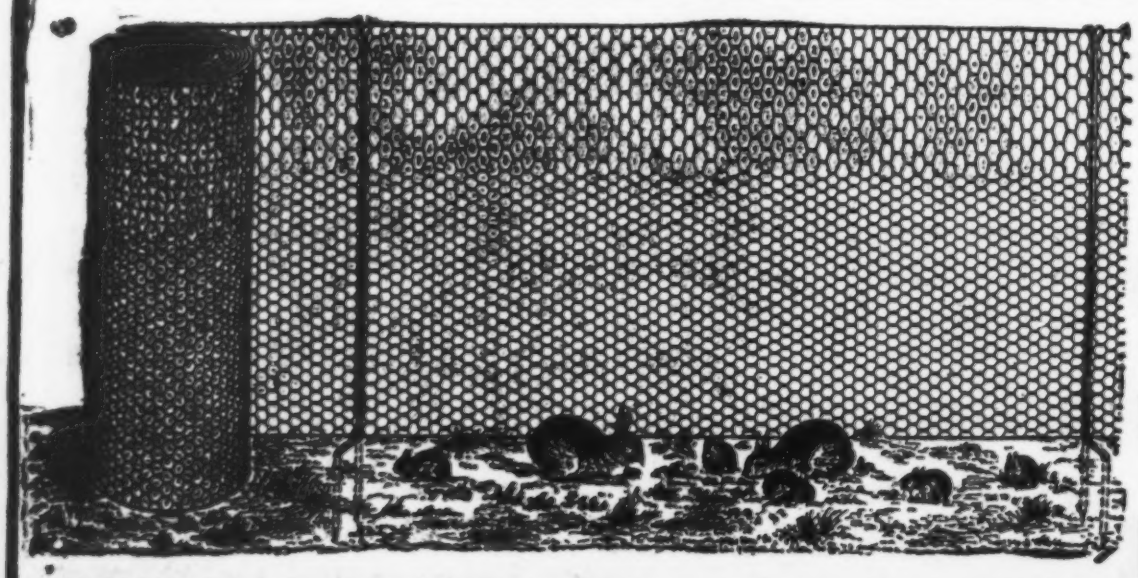

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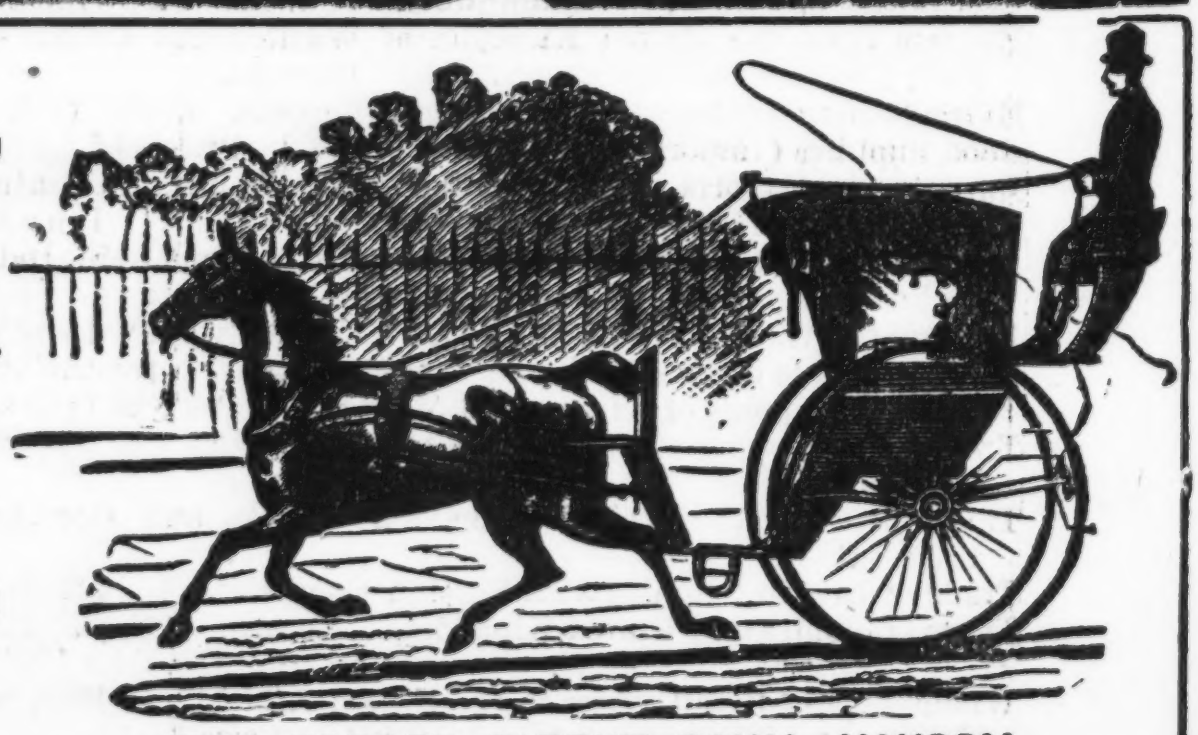

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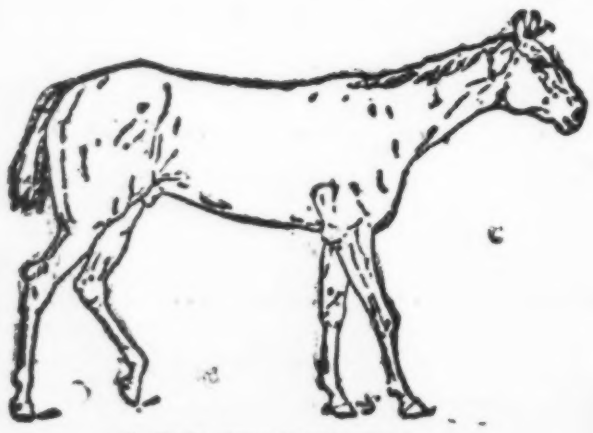

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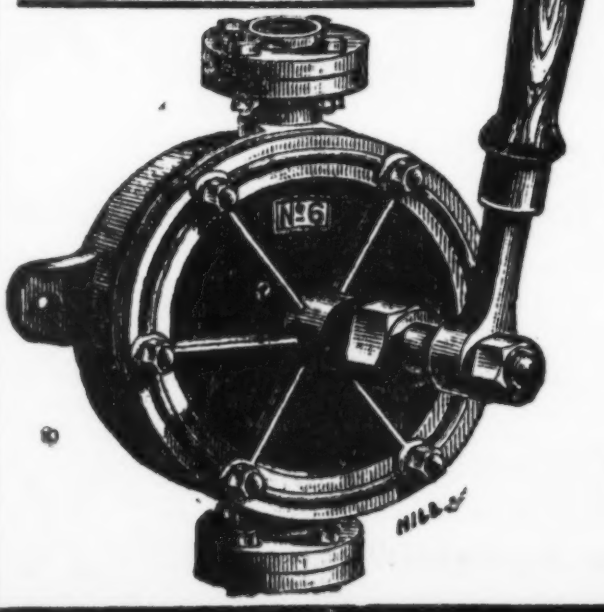

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The following Admiralty Charts have recently been newly issued, or so largely corrected as to render a new Chart desirable. The date of the alteration is notified in the centre of the bottom of the Chart.

NOTE.—Charts that have received such alterations as can usually be made by hand on the Charts in use, in agreement with the "Notices to Mariners," are not described in the List below. The date of such alteration is shown at the left hand lower corner of the Chart.

Chart No.	Title of Chart.	Nature and Subject of Correction.
3372	Greece, S. : Gulf of Lakonikos (Kolokithia) ...	New Chart. November.
1696	Eastern Archipelago : Lombok to Flores, including Paternoster and Postillon Isls.	Large Corrections. November.
3392	Philippine Isls. : Plans, Luzon, W., Port Bolinao	New Chart. November.
1750	Australia : St. Vincent Gulf, Port Adelaide ...	Large Corrections. October.
3033	Pacific : New Hebrides Isls. and New Caledonia	Loyalty Islands. November.
3322	S. America : E. Venezuela, Orinoco River ...	Large Corrections. October.
2452	West Indies : Virgin Isls., Sheet III., Tortola Isl. to Culebra, including St. Thomas Island	Culebra or Passage Island and Grampus Shoals. November.
2677	West Indies : Culebra or Passage Island ...	Large Corrections. November.
3382	Gulf of Mexico : Mississippi River, the Passes to New Orleans	New Chart. November.
1698	England, S. : Dover Bay	New Chart. November.
2842A	Baltic Sea	Skagerrak. November.
2289	The Skagerrak or Sleeve	Large Corrections. November.
3389	Sea of Azov : Taganrog Gulf	New Chart. November.
608	Africa, W. : River Gambia entrance	Large Corrections. November.
671	Africa, E. : Plans	Plan Obiat (Obbia) Anchorage. November.
3386	China, S.E. : Mirs Bay, Long Harbour and approaches	New Chart. November.
3374	Japan, Nipon, S. : Kii, Benten Saki to Miwazaki, including Urakami Ko and Katsuura Wan	New Chart. November.
3398	S. Pacific : Solomon Isls., Anchorages in Ysabel Island, Maringe Lagoon	New Chart. November.
2463	Alaska : Alexander Archipelago, Port McArthur to Windham Bay, including Chatham and Sumner Straits and Frederick Sound	Large Corrections. November.
2293	Gulf of California : Ports	Plans, Sta. Maria Cove, Approach to La Paz Harbour and La Paz Harbour. November.
1782	S. America, W. : Pisco Bay to St. Elena Point	New Chart. November.
444	West Indies : Cuba, S., Cienfuegos Bay (Port Xagua)	New Chart. November.
2863	N. America, E. : Cape Fear River	General Amendment. November.

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